

C A S E S

OF THE

EPILEPSY, HYSTERIC FITS,

AND

ST. VITUS'S DANCE,

WITH THE

PROCESS of CURE:

Interspersed with Practical OBSERVATIONS:

To which are added,

CASES of the Bite of a mad Dog,

And a Method that has been found
successful.

The SECOND EDITION,

With Emendations and Additions in the Introduction,
and some new CASES and Inspections of Dead
Bodies.

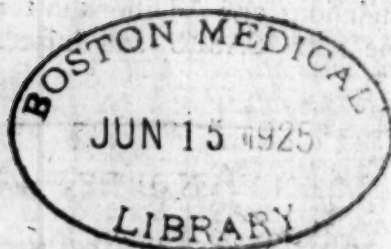
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BRANDE



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INTRODUCTION.

FROM the first Establishment of the *London Hospital*, where daily numbers of diseased Objects resort for Relief, I made it my chief Study to turn this Opportunity to Advantage, by making Observations upon the Operation of Medicines in all Constitutions, in order to find out the surest and most concise Means to cure some of the principal Disorders incident to Mankind. And as Epileptic and Hysteric Fits are of this Class, the Persons subject to them being frequently in Danger of doing themselves a Mischief by those violent Concussions, and even of becoming their own Exécutioners, by falling into Fire or Water ; of losing their rational Faculties by a long Continuance of them, and dying at last miserably of a Complication of Distempers: I therefore took down a number of those Cases, out of which I selected only such as contained the greatest Variety of Symptoms, to set forth in a plain and candid manner, the Method of treating them and its Success ; from whence the Reader

B

may

may collect what Intention is chiefly to be pursued, and how the Remedies are to be varied according to the Emergency of the Symptoms, Age, Constitutions, Sex, and other Circumstances.

I thought it most eligible to shew the Cure of Fits by Means of practical Observations, as nothing can be done in them by reasoning *a priori*. For Authors do not agree about the Cause of these Disorders: Some ascribe them to the irregular Motion of animal Spirits; others, who deny their Existence, to the other Fluids of the Body, occasioning those spasmodic Contractions of the Solids by Irritation; nay, some have thought them so inscrutable as to attribute them to Incantation.

I shall therefore not trouble the Reader with any long Detail of speculative Notions upon the Subject, but only insert, by way of Introduction, so much as may be necessary to form a proper Judgment upon these Cases, and to illustrate the various Symptoms that occur in them.

The Cases may be depended upon to be literally true in every Particular, as any one may be convinced of by comparing our Books at the Hospital that contain the Names of the Patients, Places of Abode, Occupation and Distemper, as also the Book with the Prescriptions; and I flatter myself
will

will therefore be received with the Regard due to a Set of Rules, the Practitioner may follow with all the Safety imaginable.

Some of them are long and tedious, either because the Patients did not use the Remedies so diligently as was requisite, or that the Fits did not admit of a speedier Cure, being of a long standing, the Constitution labouring under a Complication of Disorders, and the morbid Matter shifting about from Place to Place, before it was eradicated. And I doubt not but several of them would have been looked upon as incurable in the common Way of Practice, the regular Practitioner being seldom indulged long enough, in chronical Cases, to try fairly the Efficacy of his Method; whereas the Empyric is suffered contentedly to go on imposing upon his Patient, to the great Hazard of his Constitution and Pocket, as long as he thinks proper. For this reason I chose to insert some of them that were most difficult to cure, that the Patient might see he is not to despond when a Cure is not obtained immediately, and that Perseverance, under skilful Hands, will in all Probability, at last bring about the wish'd for Success.

I take the Liberty of mentioning the Names at length of those who were cured at the Expence of the *Hospital*, deeming

it a Debt due from them to the Public, to shew by their Examples, what Method may serve to cure their Benefactors, and other Fellow Creatures, afflicted with the like Diseases. A few anonymous Cases are introduced also from my private Practice, to corroborate some of the others. And to avoid all Suspicions of Fallacy, if these should be called in Question, I can at any Time prove every Particular in relation to them.

As the Spirit of Quacking prevails at present to a great Degree, lest this Tract should furnish the Ignorant with an Opportunity of tampering with my Materials, I only mention the Medicines given, but not the Doses, which therefore is left to the Discretion of the Skilful.

I have continued making Observations upon this Subject since the first Publication of these Cases, and though they contain most of the Symptoms that may offer, and clearly shew the *methodus medendi*, I thought proper for farther Instruction to add a few new ones, under the Head of Epilepsy ; as also some Inspections of my own, of Bodies that had fallen a Sacrifice to this Disease, besides some more practical Observations, that have occurred since, in my Practice.

It may not be improper here to make these general Remarks, that after due Evacuations

cuations the Cold Bath is often of great Service, and where it agrees, forwards the Cure very much; that some have been cured with *Valer. Sylv. & Visc. Querc.* others with *Cort. Peruv.* others with *Pil. Aur. Nost.* and *Decoët. e Lign.* and others again with the *Ol. Anim.* and proper Assistants. And I never could find any Medicine yet that would suit every Patient, but that different Cases, and Constitutions, &c. require also different Remedies and Method of Application.

Of the *EPILEPSY*.

THE Epilepsy appears so surprising in many Respects, that in former Ages it has been attributed to the particular Operation of the Gods, Devils and Witchcraft, and other supernatural Causes. For no Gesture, Inflexion, or Posture of the Body is to be conceived, which it doth not produce; as running, turning, bending every way, lying down like dead, standing upright, or keeping the Body in a stiff and almost insuperable Position.

When the Fit comes on, the Patient is seized suddenly, deprived of his Senses and Understanding, and thrown down with a sort of Violence; when down he grinds his Teeth, rolls about his Eyes, foams at
 B 3 Mouth,

Mouth, beats his Head, and Stomach, clenches his Hands, and works his Arms, Legs and Body ; sometimes the Breast, Hypochondria and Belly swell ; when the Fit is going off, he commonly lies as if fast asleep, and when come to himself he knows nothing of what has past, but complains of a Numbness, and a kind of Heaviness of the Head, and universal Lassitude.

Epilepsies are sometimes hereditary either from the Father or Mother ; they may proceed from a local Disorder in and about the Brain, as when it is injured in its Integuments, Superficies, Substance, Ventricles or Vessels ; from Wounds, Bruises, Imposthumations, Blood, Ichor, sharp Lymph ; from Excrescences of the *Cranium*, or Depression. All which Causes are aggravated when subsisting, by a *Plethora*, too great Motion, Heat, Drinking, Gluttony, Venery, Passions of the Mind, Fright, Grief, Vexation, Anger, &c.

Epilepsies may also arise from Worms, the Teeth, Milk curdled, and other Saburra in the *primæ viæ* of Children ; from Opiates, strong Cordials, and Volatile Medicines unseasonably given ; from the Suppression of the *Menses*, Piles and other Evacuations ; from Fevers not well depurated ; from a Lodgment of extraneous Things upon the Nerves ; from excessive
Eva-

Evacuations ; from Drinking, Eating, Exercise, Fasting, Surfeit ; from violent, long or periodical Pains ; Hysteric Fits long continued ; from Fright, Surprise, Vexation, and all other Passions of the Mind exerted immoderately.

All are not affected alike, therefore the Greatness of the Disease is judged from the Nature of the Symptoms, that concur in the Fit, and the Time of its Duration.

An Epilepsy continues sometimes many Years without Danger of Life, and often goes away of itself, especially about the Age of Puberty ; if not, it generally is difficult to cure, or continues during Life. When it is caused by an irregular Conformation of the Brain, Excrescence of the *Cranium*, or other local Disorders, it is either incurable, or its Cure depends upon the Removal of the proximate Cause.

When it comes after the Age of twenty-five, says *Hippocrates*, it continues as long as they live ; but that this Rule is not without Exception, appears from some Instances in these Cases.

Epilepsies in general are harder to cure than hysteric or hypochondriac Fits ; for as the Brain is commonly very much disordered, Medicines cannot easily take Effect, because they must be divided into such small Particles to be admitted into

the finer Tubules of its Texture, that their original Quality is very much altered, before they arrive at the Scene of Action: Whereas the other sorts of Fits arising from the Stomach, *Viscera*, *Mesenterium*, *Uterus*, and Parts nearly within the Reach of Remedies, may be cured with less Difficulty.

By Way of illustrating the Cause of Epilepsies, I shall insert a very extraordinary Case, related in the *Edinb. Medic. Essays*, T. IV. related by Dr. *Thomas Short*, Physician at *Sheffield*, and F. R. S.

A Woman, says he, about thirty-eight Years of Age, had laboured under an Epilepsy, which from one Fit a Month, was come to four or five in a Day, each continuing an Hour or an Hour and half, by which she was grown mopish and silly, and incapable of taking care of her Family. Evacuations of all kinds, Epileptic, Cephalic, and many other Medicines had been tried in vain, the Disease growing still more severe.

Her Fits always began in the Leg, towards the lower Part of the *Gastrocnemii* Muscles, and in a Moment reached her Head, threw her down, foaming at Mouth, with terrible Distortions of the Mouth, Neck and Joints. Whilst he talked with her, she fell into a Fit, he examined

mined her Leg, but found no Swelling, Hardness, Laxness, or Redness, different in that from the other Leg; but suspecting, from its beginning always in that Place, the Cause of the Disease lay there, he plunged a Scalpel about two Inches into it, and found a small indurated Body, which he separated from the Muscle; it proved a hard cartilaginous Substance, or *Ganglion*, about the Size of a large Pea, seated on a Nerve, which he cut asunder and took out the Tumor. The Woman instantly came out of her Fit, cried out she was well, and never after had one more, but recovered her former Vigor both of Mind and Body.

Analogous to this Case was that of *Mary Richardson*, a young Woman of about twenty, who was a Patient at the *London Hospital* in 1749. After a Fever she perceived a Swelling without any Inflammation at her Right Knee, with a Tightness of the Tendons in the Ham, attended with great Pain, which every now and then growing very violent, flung her into strong Convulsion Fits.

Bleeding being premised, I ordered a small Quantity of Mercurial Ointment to be rubbed in, Nights and Mornings, to be purged off when her Gums begun to be sore, and a warm Plaister to the Part,
with

with a nervous Mixture to be taken occasionally.

The Tumor being by this means reduced, and she being now able to stand and walk without much Pain, her Fits being also very much mitigated, she took *Pil. fet.* and *Elix. Vitr. Acid.* to finish the Cure.

Some Time after she relapsed into the same Circumstances as before, probably for want of pursuing the corroborating Course long enough; when repeating the same Method, she was restored to perfect Health. — The Cold Bath would have been proper in this Case, but we were then not yet provided with one at the Hospital, neither had she Money to pay for it.

Another Case of a similar Nature, about the same Time, was that of a young Woman of *Gravesend*, a Patient in the House, who after a Fever, perceived a great Pain in the *Pudendum*, upon which the *Clitoris* and its *Crura* became as hard as a Bone, which gave her so much Uneasiness, that she could hardly walk, and with the Violence of the Pain, she frequently fell into strong struggling Fits.

She was treated the same way as the beforementioned, save that an emollient nervous Fomentation was applied to the
Part

Part instead of the Plaister ; and in about three Weeks she lost her Fits.

The Disorder in the *Pudendum* being almost removed, she took a Parcel of Medicines along with her into the Country, and as I heard nothing from her, conclude she was cured.

The first of these three Cases denotes plainly, that the external Injury of a Nerve in any Part of the Body, may produce, by Consent, convulsive Motions in the Brain, and occasion all the horrid Train of an Epilepsy. — The practical Rule from hence is, that when such Fits happen after an external Hurt of some nervous Part, the Cause is to be removed before you can expect that Medicines should take any Effect. Upon this Principle I commenced the Cure of *David Manson*, Case XV. by Evacuations, under a Supposition, that the Blow he had received had occasioned some Lodgment of extravasated Fluids upon the Nerves in the Part, which affecting others by Consent, had brought on the various Complaints he laboured under, and which had its desired Effect.

The other two Cases also shew, that when Fits proceed from any local Complaint, that being removed by topical Application, they may be cured very easily.

What

What has been observed at the Dissection of Epileptic Persons, may also contribute to give an Insight into the Nature and Cause of this Disease.

Dr. *Willis*, in his Treatise *de Convulsionibus*, relates the Case of a Gentleman, who being descended from Parents labouring under nervous Complaints had been long tormented with Fits, and at last became asthmatic and died tabid. At the Opening of his Body, they found the *Omentum*, as is common in Persons who die of a Decay, putrid and almost consumed. The Stomach, Intestines, Pancreas, and Mesentery in good Order. The Spleen very well, Liver not scirrhus, but only a little enlarged. One of the Kidneys well, the other with a large Cavity distinct from its Pelvis, full of clear Water, as is often found in dropical Persons. The Lungs adhered to the *Sternum*, *Costæ*, and Diaphragm, and appeared almost in a State of Putrefaction. In each of the Ventricles of the Heart was found Blood concreted into a solid, white Substance, like boiled Flesh, as is frequently observed in such as die of chronical Disorders. — The *Cranium* being taken off, the Brain was found less than natural, and fewer Circumvolutions. From whence the Author suspected, that not a sufficient Quantity

tity of Animal Spirits had been secreted. The whole Substance was moister than is natural, seemed to be soaked in Water, and the Ventricles full of limpid Water. The Trunk of the *Spinalis Medulla* immersed also in clear Water, and wasted to half its Substance.

From hence we may suppose, that those who are hereditarily Epileptic, are often defective in the Organs, and that when this is the Case, a Cure is impracticable. However, the great Quantity of Water in which the Brain was immersed (by which means the Activity of the Animal Spirits was extinguished, and which I take to be the Case, when after a long Continuation of Fits, the Patient grows stupid, loses his Intellects, and grows paralytic) seems to indicate, that Evacuations, and sometimes brisk ones, are proper, by V. S. Emetics and Catharics, also Setons, Blisters, Issues, &c. By this Means, if a perfect Cure is not, at least a palliative one may be obtained, so as to preserve the Frame from total Dissolution. For if the Lymph collected there, and grown acrimonious, stimulating and occasioning these Spasms, is carried off from time to time, the Violence of the Fits may be greatly mitigated, though the Nature of the Disorder may not admit of a perfect Cure.

In

In the above quoted *Medical Essays*, is also related the Dissection of a Boy of four Years old, who had strong Symptoms of Worms, and died Epileptic.—The Bowels of the lower Belly were found all sound, the Stomach almost empty, not the least Appearance of Worms in the Intestines, only near the Beginning of the *Jejunum*, about two Ounces of a glary Substance of the Consistence of Jelly. The Bile was somewhat thicker than natural, and of a dusky Colour. The Lungs adhered every where, and were full of purulent Tubercles. The Blood Vessels of the Brain all greatly distended with Blood, and in the Ventricles about six Ounces of Water. The Brain itself appeared quite sound.

This Case shews again, that Evacuations would have been very beneficial, as I have often experienced in Children that Anti-epileptics will take no Effect, unless the Basis of the Cure is founded upon this Principle, as their Fits generally proceed from a crude and undigested Matter lodged in the *primæ viæ*. And when they come from Worms, even in this Case, Purging is proper to carry off the Sabarra in which they harbour, with Antihelminitics, to expel them. Thus when the Cause is removed, the Effect, the Fits, will cease of Course

Course, and the Cure is compleated by nervous and corroborating Medicines.

JOHN SOMERTON, a strong made Man, aged about forty, had laboured under epileptic Fits ten Years, used various Remedies, but to no Effect.

He was brought into the *London Hospital* the 26th of *December*, 1748, had lost the Use of his Limbs, with violent Pains in them, was leucophlegmatic all over, Belly swelled, made little Urine, was stupid, but had no considerable Thirst, or rather not Sense enough to feel or express that Complaint.

Under this Complication, I directed my first Intention to the Recovery of his Limbs, that he might be enabled to help himself a little in the Operation of brisker Evacuations, the Nurses not being able to manage him, he being very heavy. Ordered therefore a Dose of the *Tinct. Catbol.* and after its Operation, *Pil. Arthrit. cum Jul. Volat. sextis horis*, and a Blister to his Back; his Pulse was too low for Bleeding.

The 28th, he had a struggling Fit, after which he continued in a kind of Stupor, so that they could scarcely rouze him to take any thing. However they got down, between whiles, a little of the *Spir. Corn. Cerv.* though with Difficulty.

The

The 29th, ordered the Nurses to pour down some of the *Julep. è Mosch. cum Spirit. Arom. Vol.* liquid Nourishment between, and Blisters upon his Legs, both to rouse him, and to drain off the intercutaneous Water, which also often gives Relief in the *Ascites*.

He gradually recovered from his Stupor, and the fifth of *January*, finding that the Blisters on his Legs had discharged but very little, I ordered a couple more to his Thighs, and the Nurses observing that he was feverish between whiles, he had the *Mixt. Salin.* and the *Julep è Mosch.* when low and faint.

The Blisters discharged a great deal of Water, he had a Purging upon him, therefore ordered no more of the *Tinct. Cathol.* And his Pulse being small and weak, and his Arm and Neck so swelled, that no Vein could be perceived, was the Reason of his not being blooded, although he was now (the 9th of *January*) pretty well recovered of his Stupor, and his Fever sometimes pretty high; ordered him *Pil. Arth.* with the *Mixt. Salin.* and the *Julep. Mosch. Volat.* as before.

The 12th, his Stupor returned, ordered *Epispasticum Capiti Rasæ*, and the *Julep Vol. Moschat.* for nothing but Liquids could be got down, his Jaws being almost fixt.
But

But all in vain, for on the 16th, I found a small vermicular Pulse, with colligative Sweats, and the Night following he expired.

When he was opened, which was the next Day, we observed a considerable Collection of Water under the temporal Muscles.

The Vessels in the *Anfractus substantiæ corticalis Cerebri*, excessively swell'd, and full of Blood.

The *Sinus falciiformis* turgid with Blood.

The *Substantia Corticalis* of a livid Aspect.

The medullary Substance also look'd livid, and was drier than in *statu naturali*.

The Ventricles quite dry, and no Water at all in them.

The Blood-Vessels about the *Cerebellum*, extremely turgid.

The Lungs in a State of Putrefaction; the Heart very small; a little Water in the Thorax.

The Liver scirrhus and enlarged.

The *Vesica Fellea* enlarged, and full of a palish, yellow, thin Liquor.

The Stomach and Intestines vastly inflated.

The Spleen enlarged.

The Kidneys enlarged and scirrhus.

About four Quarts of Water in the Abdomen.

The Omentum wasted away.

The whole Contents of the Abdomen, as well as the Integuments, had a livid Aspect, and seemed to be in a State of Mortification, and very fetid.

When the Integuments were cut through, Water ouzed out in every Part of the Body.

Upon due Consideration, it appears very plain, that this was a lost Case when the Patient was brought to the House, and may serve as an Example, what Prognostic is to be made, when a Person, fatigued with Fits a long Time, becomes stupid and leucophlegmatic; and to shew that the Dissolution of the whole Machine is not far off, when these two Symptoms are followed by a paralytic Attack, of which any one, who understands the Animal Oeconomy, will easily see the Reason.

Dr. *Willis's* System, that a sharp Lymph, collected in the Ventricles of the Brain, and vellicating the Origin of the Nerves, is the Cause of Fits, seems not to hold good in this Patient; as the Ventricles were dry; and even the whole Cerebrum seemed defective in its natural Moisture. But it is very probable some extravasated Water had been there, and that perhaps the feverish Heat had consumed it; or by Means of the great Laxity of the whole Frame, from the
Length

Length of those violent Spasmodic Convulsions, had been absorbed into the Habit. And the sphecalated Aspect of the whole Body may be accounted for, according to Dr. Willis's *Rationale*, in the Case hereafter mentioned, under the Title of *Hysteric Fits*.

As the nervous System was debilitated by the frequent Spasms and Languor remaining after them, it is easy to conceive, that the Fluids thrown with Violence into the Extremes, could not so readily be returned by the Circulation again, from whence a Stagnation in the Lymphatics, and the Leucophlegmatia of the whole Body, gradually was brought on. The Collection of Water in the Abdomen and morbid Aspect of the whole Body, as well as Viscera, are easily accounted for from the same Principle.

MARY STEVENS, aged about 40, came into the Hospital the 7th of September, 1749: She had lost the Use of all her Limbs, except her Arms; had a hectic Fever, set Colour in her Face, and Convulsion Fits all over, tho' not very strong; seemed so stupify'd, that no rational Answer could be got from her.

The best Account I could get concerning her, was, that she had bore several Children; and that after her last Lying-in, which was about three Months before, hav-

ving got cold, she felt a Pain in the Abdomen, which increasing to a great Degree, she at first had fainting Fits;—then they came to struggling Fits, foaming at the Mouth, &c. and the Use of her Limbs downwards was taken from her. —The Pain of the Abdomen constant, tho' worse at some Time than other;—The Menfes stopt by degrees;—a slow Fever came on;—she lost her Appetite and Flesh;—Alvus pretty orderly; Urine high colour'd; Pulse frequent and small; and in this Condition she came to us.

She had been blooded several Times, therefore I ordered her to lose but a little, which sinking her, no more Evacuations were judged proper. A Blister was applied to the Back, and nervous Medicines ordered, —but all to no Purpose; the hectic Fever increased; Fits between whites, tho' not so strong as formerly: She daily sunk under the Load of Complaints, and died, quite wore away, the 1st of *October*.

The next Day she was opened, and we found the Stomach, Duodenum, Jejunum, Ileum, and Colon, very much inflated; the lower Part of the latter and Rectum, as also the Uterus, and its Appendages, very much inflamed. The Uterus, os Tincæ, and upper Part of the Vagina, thickened, yet not much

much enlarged ;—The Liver, Kidneys and Bladder, sound.

The Vessels of the *Anfractus Cerebri*, as also the Sinuses, turgid with Blood,

The *Substantia Corticalis* as if soak'd in Water, and the Ventricles filled with a watry Fluid.

The Vessels of the *Cerebellum* turgid with Blood, and its Substance like the *Cerebellum*, flabby and watery.

Tho' this was not originally an epileptic Case, it by degrees degenerated into that Disorder, and therefore takes its Place not improperly here.

I will relate here another Case, from private Practice, that may be instructive, with regard to the Cause of Fits, and the Inspection after Death — A fleshy, healthy-looking Child, was troubled with Eruptions in his Face, which disappearing, he screamed, wrung his Body, and soon after went into Fits. — Testaceous and nervous Medicines were administered, but to no Effect.

Application being made to me, I recollected the Mother had been subject to a scorbutic Heat, appearing from Time to Time, and ordered a little Calomel with *Oc. Cancr.* to be given every other Day ; *Cinnab. Antim. & Æthiop. Miner.* twice a Day, the intermediate Days a Blister upon the Back, and the *Empl. de Galban.* to the Belly,

which brought out a great Heat underneath it; and by these Means, the Child was cured of its Fits, seemed perfectly easy, and throve very well.

About three Months after, its Wet-Nurse meeting with a great Fright, the Child had Fits again:—The same Course of Medicines was repeated, but to no Purpose; Leeches being applied to the Temples, he seemed better. An Issue was opened in the Arm, and the back Part of the Head feeling vastly hot after the Fits, a Blister was applied upon the Place.—*Sal Jovis, Val. Sylv. Visc. Querc.* Cordiac Medicines and Clysters occasionally, and Cathartics were given all in vain;—He having no Sleep for 24 Hours, a little *Syr. de Mecon.* procured Rest, and some Respite from the Fits:—They were of the epileptic Kind, the Child working its Arms, and clenching its Hands, foaming at Mouth, and voiding Urine in them; at last he grew so stupid, that he took no Notice of any Thing, refused sucking, took but little Nourishment, and the Fits continually increasing, he expired in great Strugglings.

After the afore said Fright, the Mother had got another Nurse, who, having a Tremor upon her, was discharged two Days after. Then the former was taken again, tho' I advised weaning the Child, who, it appeared afterwards, had suckled another Woman's

Woman's Child the mean while, which also died of Fits. This Child had had some Symptoms of Fits, but never any Strugglings, till this Woman had given it her Milk.

Our little Patient laboured under this last Attack, off and on, pretty near three Months.

When the Child was opened (the next Day) we found the Panniculus Adiposus half an Inch thick; the Stomach empty, but not disordered; the Edges of the Lobe of the Liver, in the right Hypochondrium, inflamed; the *Vesicula Fellea* large and turgid with Gall; the *Jejunum*, as also the *Colon*, inflated like a Bladder, and empty; the *Ileum*, *Mesentery*, and *Rectum*, inflamed, as also the neighbouring Membranes: The rest in *statu naturali*.

In opening the Head, we observed the Sutures quite close, and no Opening at all in the Vertex, as is common in young Children; and the Man-Midwife, when he laid the Mother, observed, he never had seen a new-born Child's Head so close shut up.

The *Periosteum* inflamed and full of Blood.

The *dura Mater* inflamed, and thickned to the Substance of a thick Parchment.

The *Pia Mater* also turgid with Blood.

The *Substantia cerebri corticalis*, when cut through, yielded a great deal of Water, and was flabby, as if soak'd in Water.

The Ventricles full of Water.

The Membrane, covering the *Cerebellum*, turgid with Blood, and inflamed; and its Substance flabby and watry, and so was the *Substantia Medullaris Cerebri*, yielding much Water when cut into.

The first of these two Cases shews plainly, that the Spasms proceeded from uterine Complaints; and that Bleeding, aperient and deobstruent Medicines might have prevented them, if properly given in the beginning. When she came to me, her Strength was so much reduced, and the System of Nerves so shattered, that there was no Room for Evacuations, the chief Means of rescuing her from the Jaws of Death, as appears from the Success of the Attempt that was made.

The second seems to argue strongly, that Scorbutic Humours, repelled into the Habit, may occasion Fits, of which I have seen several Instances in the Fair Sex, especially when assisted by other concurrent Causes, as here by the præternatural Closure of the Sutures of the *Cranium*. This, by hindering the free Expansions of the *Cerebrum*, from the Pulsation of its Arteries, might occasion a Plethora there; and by subsequent Causes, occasion those Fits, that must prove incurable, as the local Impediment was not to be removed.

It

It proves farther, what is very well known, that the Quality of the Milk is of the greatest Consequence to the sucking Babe, and inforces this salutary Lesson, that when any Accident happens to the Nurse, all Caution imaginable should be applied, to prevent the ill Effects from the Milk upon the tender Infant.

From the above quoted Dissections, it appears plain, in what Condition the *Cerebrum* is in a confirmed Epilepsy; only *John Somerton* seems to be an Exception, his Brain not being found watry like the rest; but it is probable it was so before the feverish Heat came on, which might consume it; and the Vessels being too much relaxed to restore the due Circulation of Fluids there, the Parts became effete and sphacelated.

The general Intention, therefore, to cure Epilepsies, seems to consist in evacuating the extravasated Lymph and stagnating Blood, and to restore the Tone of the Vessels.

The first of these Indications is answered various Ways, by Bleeding, Vomiting, Purging, Blistering, Issues, Setons and Sternutatories. The second, by the Cold Bath, nervous and corroborating Medicines. However, these means ought to be apply'd with Judgment, in Proportion to the Strength of the Patient, and the proximate Causes of the Disease, require Medicines properly adapted to

to remove them. Thus in obstructed Women, troubled with Fits, deobstruent Medicines are particularly indicated. When Fits proceed from a local Disorder, or external Injury, besides internals, topical Application is also required: When from Worms, all the Tribe of nervous Drugs prove ineffectual, but Antihelmintics must do the Business; if from an Excess in the Non-naturals, these must be regulated. In short, if the Practitioner doth not make this Distinction, his Endeavours will not only prove fruitless, but also may be injurious to the Constitution.

How vain, therefore, is it to imagine, that Mistleto, Valerian, or any other Medicine, should cure Fits, from those various Causes, by a specific Virtue; or that Pretenders in Physic can sell, by Way of Advertisement, Medicines suitable in all Cases and Circumstances.

Aretæus recommends bleeding from the Veins of the Arm and Forehead, and Cupping, but not till the Patient faints, for that would increase the Disorder; also opening any Artery, both before and behind the Ear. —I have had the Artery behind the Ear opened, but found not so much Relief from it, as from bleeding in the Jugular. Obstructed Women should be bled in the Foot.—Bleeding may be repeated, according
to

to the Nature of the Symptoms and Constitution of the Patient.

Emetics are by some Practitioners recommended as the most salutary Evacuations, and directed to be given about the Changes of the Moon. *Vid. Helmont et veteres.* I have found great Success from this Method in some Cases; but in others it left such a Disorder in the Stomach and Head, that I thought it not safe to pursue it. No doubt they are of great Service in the Beginning, when the Disorder of the Brain and Nerves first comes on; but when that is formed and a great deal of extravasated Lymph already collected in the Substance and Ventricles of the Cerebrum, it seems consistent with Reason, that instead of diminishing, it may increase the Disease, and in this Situation I think Cathartics are more eligible.

When Dulness, Heaviness, or any local Pain of the Head remains after Fits, Cupping is of great Service, and in this Case I have ordered a Seton in the Neck with Success.

Issues are very useful, especially in Children, and I recollect the case of an eminent Physician, who had several Children died of Fits, which determined him at last to open those he had afterwards Issues in the Month, by which means he preserved them, and left a numerous Offspring. Some recommend an Issue upon the Vertex, made by a Caustic; but

but this I think hazardous, lest some of the corrosive Salts should soak through, and produce dangerous Consequences. I think it safer to be made with a Knife, or if the Case were deplorable, I would propose a Trepan to be made in a dependent part of the Cranium.

Blisters undoubtedly are of Use, provided they are applied so as they may not be displaced or become troublesome by the Violence of the Strugglings. I have often applied some to the Arm or Head, and kept them open, with Advantage.

After due Evacuations the cold Bath may be used; however, notwithstanding this Precaution had been duly taken, I have been obliged to discontinue it, the Fits being increased thereby, and a kind of Stupor ensuing with a violent Cephalalgia, which I was afraid portended the coming on of a Stroke of the Palsey.

When the case is recent, the Solids require bracing up, and the Constitution strong enough to restore the Circulation with Vigor proportionable to the violent Impulse from without, the cold Bath generally has a good Effect; but when the Nerves are debilitated by a long Continuation of Fits, or the Constitution so weakened, that the Patient comes out cold, and remains chilly with Dizziness of the Head, it ought to be left off;
for

for he will grow worse instead of earning a Reward for the fatiguing Experiment.

Fonseca L. 2. Con. 30. directs Opiates in the Epilepsy, to mitigate the ferocity of the Spirits, and inordinate Perturbation of the Senses, provided they are accompanied with Medicines adapted to the Distemper. Thus *Hartman. in prax. Chymiat. de Epileps.* recommends *Laudan. Opiat.* with *Ol. Camphor.* as Specifics for the Epilepsy. And *Fonseca* further advises the Temples, Nostrils and Pulse to be rubbed with Oil of Box, on account of its narcotic Quality. But Narcotics are not to be used till Universals have been premised, and then not to effect a Cure, but by way of preventative, and to mitigate the Violence of the Fits, with a cautious and sparing Hand, because Epilepsies, as before observed, are apt to occasion Stupidity, and there is Danger lest the injudicious Use of Opiates should promote this Symptom.

As to Mercurials, their Usefulness plainly appears from several of these Cases: Besides what is said there, I cannot omit observing, that I have had since some Patients, who upon the Mitigation of their Fits had local excruciating Pains, which seemed to baffle the Power of Medicine. These I have put into a gentle Ptyalism to dislodge and extirpate

irpate the morbid Matter, which generally has answered our Intention.

To cure and eradicate the Epilepsy, a Milk Diet is very much recommended, abstaining from all other Food, and drinking nothing strong and spirituous, of which we have a remarkable History of a Physician at *Croyden*, who was cured by this method. See *Cheyne's Treatise of the Gout*. P. 103. and 109.

As Tea rarifies the Juices and relaxes the Nerves, it must be very pernicious. Coffee, as a Dryer may be of Use, provided so much is not taken as to debilitate and dry up the Nerves too much.

As Chalybeates corrugate the Solids and invigorate the Juices, they are of great Service, *Elix. Vit. acid.* answers those Intentions, without heating, or bringing on Vertigos and Hurries of Spirits, as other Chalybeates sometimes do. Dr. *Willis's* Opinion being, that Epilepsies are very much influenced by the Changes of the Moon, recommends Evacuations to be made about that Time, as is mentioned of Emetics above, by Bleeding, Vomiting and Purging, which I have found of very great Service, when the Constitution, Time of the Menses, and other Circumstances will permit.

Medicines of the animal Kind are, the Spirit and Salt prepared from human Blood, which,

which, according to *Van Helmont*, are Species in the Epilepsy, even when it is hereditary. *Lindanus* recommends the Blood of a Person beheaded, which should be digested in a glass Vessel with *Sp. Vin.* in order to prepare a Spirit, and *Volatile Salt*. *Celsus* mentions, that some were cured with drinking the warm Blood of *Gladiators* killed in Combat; but to express his Abhorrence of the Remedy, adds *Apud quos miserum auxilium, tolerabile miserius malum fecit.*

B. D. Michaelis says, this Blood should stand to coagulate, to separate the Serum from it, and when it begins to putrify, you will get a greater quantity of Spirit and Salt from it. I have often given the *Ol. Animale* with Success, tho' not quite so much as *Joannes Junkerus*, M. P. at *Hall*, in *Dissertatione inaugurali Med.* speaks of, who says that he cured some with one Dose of it only. *Frid. Hoffman.* in *Observ. Phys. Med.* p. m. 58. has the following Passage. *Prætereq illud maxime omnium meretur attentionem, quod destillata ex omnibus animantium partibus olea, crebra et repetita co-bobatione, ad tantum subtilitatis gradum evehi possint, ut aliquanto majori dosi exhibita gravissimis et inveteratis morbis, radicibus extirpandis apta evadant.* — And a little lower *Ejusmodi oleum, ad viginti et ultro guttas jejuno Stomacho, sex horis ante accessio-*
nem

nem februm intermittentium datum dulcem et placidum inducit somnum ac mirifice febres profligat ; in inveterata quoque et chronica Epilepsia persananda, et motibus convulsivis compascendis præsidium est generosissimum, præsertim si ante consuetum invasionis tempus propinetur, eaque præmittantur remedia, quæ nimie humorum quantitati evacuandæ dicata sunt. Here you see *Hoffman* is of Opinion this Oil may be prepared from any animal Substance, and that it is a generous Remedy for intermittent Fevers, and Chronical Epilepsies and Convulsions. The *Ungula Alcis* bears, in the Opinion of some, a great Character for curing the Epilepsy ; but probably deserves no greater Encomium than the *Cornu Cervi*. Some have in great Esteem the Powder of live Swallows and Moles calcined. *Vid. Ludovici Pharmacop. Castor. Rusi.* and the white of Peacocks Dung, are also noted Remedies. *Vid. Borell. Centur. Observ. 15. Secundinæ humanæ, Lumbrici Terrestris.* The Heart of a Raven baked and powdered, *Pili et Stercus Leonis*, with many others whose Efficacy, consists more in Imagination than Reality.

The chief Medicines from the vegetable Kingdom are, *Rad. Valer. Sylv. Pæon. Mar. Flor. Lilior. Conval. Tiliæ. Anthos, Sem. Pæon. Mar. Rutæ. Visc. Quercin. Lign. Buxi, Guaiaci*, a Decoction of the latter says, *Alphonfus*

phonus Ferrus, has cured several epileptic Persons; drank 6 to 8 oz. twice a Day, and the second Decoction being made their common Drink. *Camphor. Opium; G. As. Fæt. Ammon.* and all the fetid Gums, *Cort. Peruv. &c.*

Of the mineral Tribe, are *Cinnab. nativ. & Antimonii, Sulphur antim. præcip. Ol. Vitriol. dulce Vid. Hoffm. Observ. physico. chym.* And *Paracelsus's Spirit. Vitriol. Vol.* Some mercurial Preparations, *Aur. musiv. Chalybeates,* Mineral Waters, *Sal & Ol. Succini, Sal & Spir. C. C. &c.*

As to external Application, *Ol. Succin. Anthos Rusæ Majoranæ & Bals. Peruv.* may be rubb'd in, provided the Patient has no natural Dislike to them. But in case odoriferous Smells are offensive, you may apply the *Ol. C. C. Philosophor. & Buxi.*

The Smoke of Tobacco, Feathers, Raggs, and the Fumes of Amber may be blown in the Face, to rouse Persons out of a Fit. Also Ligatures are properly made to hinder the spasmodic Communication, in Case the Convulsions begin from the extreme Parts. Those who want to see a greater Collection of Remedies upon this Subject, may consult *Willis de Convuls.*

It is a common Practice to hold People in Fits down by main Force, and to constrain

strain their Limbs from working, with a View to relieve them, and to abate the Fit. But it is far otherwise; for as those violent Agitations are an Endeavour of Nature to throw off some peccant Matter, this Intention is hindred by restraining them, and the Fit prolonged. This several of my Patients have confirmed to be the Case from their own Observation. Besides, that the strong Compression used upon these Occasions, causes a violent Pain in all those Parts where they are held, and greatly adds to that universal Lassitude, which Fits naturally leave behind them. For this Reason they should be held no otherwise, than may serve only to prevent their doing themselves a Mischief.

Riding on Horseback strengthens the Nerves, and promotes the Functions of the animal Oeconomy, therefore it is very beneficial to epileptic Persons, when it can be used with Safety, and other kinds of Exercise are useful, provided they are not too fatiguing; also Country Air, chearful Company, and Diversions that don't hurry or exhaust the Spirits, are proper. They should drink no strong Liquors. Their Diet should be moderate, and such as is easy of Digestion, (Swine's Flesh is absolutely interdicted by *Celsus*) and may not impreg-
nate

nate the Mass of Blood with Flatulencies and acrimonious Juices.

Of HYSTERIC FITS.

HYstERIC Fits commonly begin with a Working in the *Abdomen*, which is followed by a Distention and Rumbling of the *Hypochondrium*, with a Swelling at Stomach, Belching, Endeavour to vomit, unequal Respiration, and often obstructed with Rising and Suffocation in the Throat, Vertigo, Inversion or Rotation of the Eyes, Laughing, Crying, with an obscure Pulse or none, and a cadaverous Countenance; sometimes convulsive Motions of the Face and Limbs, or of the whole Body.

These Fits often resemble so nearly the Epilepsy, that it is difficult to distinguish them. But when the Patient, immediately after the Attack, is seized with a Vertigo or great Disorder of the Head, or suddenly falls down with Force, these Fits are to be ranked among the epileptic, altho' they first begin in the *Abdomen*. For notwithstanding their original Seat is there, yet by Length of Time the nervous System may be so weakened, that at their coming on, the *Cerebrum* is affected immediately; and thus Hysterick Fits by Degrees de-

generate into Epileptic. And but few there are who have been subject to them any considerable Time, that have not a Mixture of epileptic Symptoms with them.

That Hysteric Fits are capable of doing so much Injury to the Nerves and Solids, appears plain from the Dissection of Bodies. Here the Reader may call to mind the Case of *Mary Stevens*, related above.

Dr. Willis, in his Treatise *de Morb. convuls.* mentions the Case of a Gentlewoman that had been long afflicted with Fits, and at last died of an Apoplexy. She complained of a violent Pain in the *Abdomen* and Loins, upon which convulsion Fits ensued. After she had been pregnant about two Months, she generally miscarried in most excruciating Pains. The Fits came on with a Weight seeming to rise from the *Abdomen* up to the Throat with Suffocation and Spasms in the Face, after which the whole Body was convulsed.

When dead, the Parts below the Seat of this violent Pain, the Thighs and Legs were found greatly emaciated; but the Face, Neck, and Arms plump and full of Flesh. Within 40 Hours after her Decease, the Skin turned livid, in some Places green and black; and the Body being so soon putrify'd, emitted a most offensive Stench; which he ascribes to the Principle of Mixtion

tion in the Juices being dissolved by the frequent spasmodic Agitation of the Muscles, in like Manner as the Flesh of a Deer that has been hunted down, or bruised, or beat, putrifies much sooner than that of an Animal which is killed in a quiet State.

The Stomach and Intestines were found in good Order, except that they seemed very much inflated. In the Middle of the Mesentery, where it is connected with the Back, a Part, the Bigness of one's Hand, was puffed up as if blown into Vesicles, which being opened, contained nothing but Air, and was judged to be the principal Seat of the Distemper; for tho' the *Uterus* had been accused by many to be in Fault, it was found in good Condition, and none of its Appendages any ways defective: So that he concludes, Hysteric Fits are often owing to other Causes than Disorders of the *Uterus*.

The Kidneys were found, but divided into several Lobes like those of Calves. The Melt, *Pancreas* and *Omentum* very well, but the Liver swelled, hard and putrid like rotten Wood, probably owing to the strong and hot Medicines she had been long accustomed to. The Lungs were livid, obstructed, and contained a foety and fetid Ichor.

The Vessels of the *Meninges* and *Cerebrum* were full of Blood, when hardly any ap-

peared in dissecting the other Parts of the Body. The *Plicæ* and *Anfractus*, as well as the Cavities of the Brain, seemed to be filled with Water. The *Plexus Choroideus* having been long soaked in it was grown discoloured and almost putrid. The Lymph having penetrated into the *Pia Mater*, below the *Medulla Oblongata*, and falling down from thence upon the *Plexus Mesenterii*, and being rarified there, and forcibly expanding those membranous Cells, he conjectures was the Occasion of the violent Spasms and Pains in those Parts.

It is needless to comment much upon this Quotation. The judicious Reader may collect from hence an Idea of what, generally speaking, passes in the Frame of such as have been long afflicted with Hysteric Fits, and how like they are in their Effects to the Epilepsy.

Purcel in his Treatise upon this Subject says, that in Regard to the Cure, the Physician is to examine carefully, whether the Patient be of a sanguine, choleric, melancholy, or phlegmatic Constitution, and also the peculiar Kind or Crudity, occasioning the Distemper; whether the Blood be too viscid, or too loose, and subject to Fermentation. A Sensation of Cold in the Back, says he, and a weak and slow Pulse argue a Siziness of the Blood: A quick Pulse, a
great

great Heat, succeeding Chilliness, and the Smell of Musk, Civet, Amber, &c. occasioning a Fit, shew the State of the Blood more loose and subject to Fermentation.

When the Blood is viscid, Bleeding is proper, and the Day after an Emetic or Cathartic. This being premised, Attenuants and Aperitives are to be made use of, Decoctions with opening Roots and Herbs, chalybeat Medicines, Volatiles, &c. When the Blood is too loose, and apt to ferment, Remedies temperating that Heat are indicated, as Bleeding, *Cort. Peruv.* Chalybeat Waters, cooling Emulsions, Broth made of Crayfish, &c.

However judicious these Instructions may be, in Case the true State of the Blood be sufficiently known, he has omitted the chief Remedy to correct the Viscidity of the Blood, that is *Merc. dulc.* or *Calomel*, as appears from several of these Cases. And that chalybeat Waters are not so very safe in the other State, may be collected from the Cases of two Women, who received great Hurt from drinking them, as shall be mentioned hereafter. His Rules might be satisfactory if the Seat of the Distemper were in the Fluids only: But as the Organs of Digestion, Secretion, Nutrition, and Excretion, do not perform their

Office duly, and indeed are frequently the primary Cause of Fits, the *primæ Viæ* should be principally attended to; for when these are put to rights, most generally the Juices will be rectify'd of course.

It is a common and received Maxim, that hysteric Persons don't bear Evacuations well. But I have observed that when there is a *Plethora*, or Mixture of epileptic Symptoms, Evacuations generally have a good Effect; and gentle Discharges, as may be procured by *Pil. fœtid.* or *Gumm. Purg.* I ever found advantagious, unless contraindicated by a *Diarrhæa*, *Dysentery*, *Hæmorrhage* from the Uterus, and *Hæmorrhoids*. For as those Patients are commonly costive, they are relieved by *Aperients*; and it is a general Observation with me, that when the Discharges by Stool and Urine are brought into their natural Course, the Cure is near at Hand.

The Indications of Cure in Men and Women are nearly alike, the primary Cause, as is said above, in both being generally Crudities and vitious Concoctions, from Disorders in the *Primæ Viæ*. And altho' Obstructions of the Uterus render Women subject to various Disorders, which Men are not liable to, yet the same Kind of Medicines that are given to cure Men of Fits, most

most commonly also remove them in Women. However, it is to be noted, that in Case of menstrual Obstructions, Bleeding in the Foot is particularly recommended, and this to be repeated from Time to Time as the Constitution will bear. But when the Woman is pregnant, or labours under an Hæmorrhage from the Uterus, from Weakness, forcing Remedies are to be avoided; but Bleeding in the Arm, cooling Purges, and corroborating Medicines, are proper.

When a Flux of the Uterus happens from a Phlethora, as is common about the Age of the Menses going off, besides *V. S.* I commonly order a little Calomel, and purge it off the next Day with a cooling Cathartic, which generally answers the desired End, without any Restrictants; for if these are given without proper Evacu-ations, a Scirrhus, Cancer, and other Disorders may ensue.

I have cured many Women of Fits that laboured under an Obstructio Mensium before this was removed, *Vid. Cas. VI.* Others have been regular before they were cured of their Fits. Some have been worse of their Fits upon the Appearance of the Menstrua, *Vid. Case VII. X. XVIII. XXVIII.* And others have lost them during their
Cure,

Cure, probably owing to the repeated Evacu-
 cations, or the Translation of the mor-
 bific Matter, *Vid.* Case XXXIII, and one
 whose Fits returned at the Age of Puberty,
 was cured upon the Appearance of the
 Menfes. *Vid.* Case XVII. From hence we
 may conclude, that the Regulation of the
 Menfes is not so sure a Guide to go by in
 the Prognostication about the Cure of Fits,
 as some have imagined.

Chalybeat Medicines are recommended in
 Men and Women for Fits, especially when
 accompanied with the *Obstructio Mensium* ;
 but when there is a Plethora they are to
 be used with great Precaution. I remember
 the Case of two middle aged Women, of
 that Complexion, who had weak Nerves,
 and with drinking the *Issington* Chalybeat
 Waters got a Fever, attended with Spasms,
 Horrors, and other Hysteric Complaints,
 and their Nerves remained weak a consider-
 able Time after the Fever was gone off.
 For the Pondus of the Blood being increased,
 the Animal Spirits, subject already to an ir-
 regular Fluctuation, are still more hurried
 on upon the Nerves with Vehemence, and
 may occasion Fits when the Nerves are
 that Way disposed, or increase them when
 the Patient has them already.

In

In such Constitutions therefore I begin with Bleeding, Vomiting, and Purging; which, if the Strength of the Patient will bear it, is repeated about the Change of the Moon, antispasmodic Medicines between, Blisters occasionally, and lastly, Chalybeats and other Corroborants, may come in to establish the Cure. But some of this Complexion I have cured chiefly by Evacuations, with very little other Assistance, as appears from Case XI. XII. and XV.

Phlegmatic and weakly Subjects don't bear so well these Evacuations, and for Fear of reducing them, so as they may not be able to cope with the Violence of the Fits, gentler Means are to be used. In these the *Pilul. fatid.* or *Gummos. purg.* given as an Aperient every other Day, and the *Elix. Vitr. mynsf.* to brace up at the same Time, very often answer all the Intentions: But if this Method should fail, such other nervous, aromatic, volatile and stomachic Medicines must be called to Aid, as are indicated by the Symptoms that spring up from Time to Time.

Concerning the Cure of Children, I must remark here as above, under the Article of Epilepsy, that Evacuations by Stool are the Foundation of the Cure; Bleeding is to be done with great Caution, as the Loss of too much

much Blood soon overthrows the nice Balance between the Fluids and Solids in those tender Subjects; Blisters are of great Service, and the great Use of Issues has been mentioned under the Head of Epilepsy; testaceous and nervous Medicines may be thrown in as is judg'd proper. And in general you should have a constant View to the *Suburra* in the *Primæ Viæ*, and Worms.

As to cold Bathing, Air, Diet, Exercise, and other Regimen, the Reader is referred to the Article of Epilepsy.

The *Chorea Sancti Viti*, *Tetanus*, *Emprosthotonus*, *Episthotonus*, *Spasmus Cynicus*, *Tortura Oris*, and other Spasms, are all to be treated after this Method, therefore it is needless to enter here upon Particulars concerning them.

CASE I.

Epilepsia Curfiva, Running Fits.

R Ebecca Cole, aged 16, was seized with Fits when about seven Years old, struggling hard, and clasping hold of any Thing she could lay Hands on. Since the Age of fifteen they come on in the following Manner; first, she perceives a Weight in her Head, which makes her hang it down, then a Tremor all over and Fainting, then runs till she meets with some Resistance, then falls down, struggles at
first

first, after that lies still, and gradually come to herself again. The Fit being over she trembles, is faint, sick at Stomach, and dizzy, and now by the frequent Returns of them is almost become stupid. Her right Side is affected most, can hardly hold still that Arm, which seems to be in continual Agitation, like the *Chorea Sancti Viti*, is generally costive, and observes when she goes to Stool regularly her Fits are not so frequent. She often bleeds at Nose to the Quantity of eight Ounces, which relieves her Head, and seldom has Fits at that Time. Has never had her *Menses*.

Aug. 28, 1745, Ordered V. S. ped. an Emetic in the Afternoon, a Calomel Pill at Night, and Cathartick the Morning following, and a Paregoric at Night.

Aug. 30. Had had Fits every Day, had like to run one Time into the Fire, if People in the Ward had not prevented it. Ordered *Pil. fetid.* every other Night, and *Elix. Vitriol.* twice a Day.

Sept. 2. Continued having the same Sort of Fits every Day, her Head, Trembling and Shaking of the Arm very bad. Ordered a perpetual Blister upon the Inside of the Arm affected, and to continue the Pills and Drops.

Sept. 4. Finds herself better, Trembling and Shaking of the Arm not so very bad. Ordered a Calomel Pill at Night, a Cathar-

tio

tic the Morning following, and a Paregoric at Night. After that to use again the *Pil. fetid.* and *Elix. Vitr.* as before.

Sept. 12. Had been without Fits several Days, but quarrelling with another in the Ward had one yesterday, yet without any Running. Continued the Pills and Drops.

Sept. 18. Eats and sleeps very well, Drowziness and Stupidity almost gone, holds the right Arm steady, and has almost as much Use of it as of the other, begins to have a lively Colour in her Face, and not having had any Fit since the 12th, her Trembling better but not quite gone, desires to return Thanks to the House Committee, and to be continued as an Out-patient.

After this she had Medicines twice or three Times more, still continuing to mend, and the last Time I saw her, she said she had remained free from Fits, her Tremor quite gone, and had seen a Shew of the *Catamenia*; which induces me to think, as she never returned since, she was perfectly cured, and her Health compleatly established.

C A S E II.

Another Example of the Running Epilepsy.

William Skelwin, aged eight, had four Years ago Convulsion Fits from a Fright, after that, when they came on, his
Eyes

Eyes run with Water, both Arms drew forward up to his Face, then his Head beat downwards, and he fell a screaming and struggling, with Loss of Senses. He commonly had seven or eight of these Fits a Day, and from the first Onset they perceived his right Arm and Leg to be lame, which have continued so ever since.

Since that, when the Fit is coming on, he runs with Violence, as fast as the Lameness of his Leg will permit, streight forwards till he meets with Opposition, or some Body catches him, with Screaming, and at last drops down, and lies like a dead Corpse. They perceive that he is worse Spring and Fall. The two last Summers he had Eruptions on his Head, during which^e Time he was better, but this Summer has none, and his Fits are worse. He eats, and sleeps well, *Alvus* regular, and Urine of common Appearance. Has taken various Remedies, and used the Cold Bath, which they thought made him brisker. His Arm is almost useless, but he can walk, though not without some Difficulty and Limping. His Mouth is continually drivelling with *Saliva*, and his Speech and Memory are so much impaired, that he appears like a Natural.

June

June 19, 1745. The first Time of his coming to the *Infirmary*, I ordered *Epispast. perpet. nuch.* The *Pil. fæt.* every other Day, and the *Elix. Vitriol. Myns.* twice a Day.

July 17. The Mother, to excuse her not coming for Medicines before, said she had been ill herself, and though the Child had not had Medicines for all the Time, yet she said his Running was not so violent, neither did he fall so hard. His Spirits, Memory and Speech seem better, his Lameness not quite so bad, but drivels as before. Had the Pills and Drops again.

Aug. 7. The Mother said one of her Children had been ill of the Small Pox, which prevented her coming for Medicines sooner, but that the Boy's Fits were better. As he began
to

to loath his Pills, I ordered him to take the *Lac Ammon. cum Tinct. fulig.* twice a Day, and every other Morning an aperient Medicine.

Aug. 21. Has his Running Fits still, but not so violent, neither doth he fall down, but seems to be very much flustered; the Fit comes on with a Working in his Hands and Arms.—Had the last Medicines again.

Sept. 11. Some Boils broke out in his Head, is troubled very much with the *Vertigo*, but the Running Fits not so bad.—I ordered him to be blooded, to take an Emetic the Evening, and a Cathartic the Morning following (it being about the Change of the Moon, at which Time he was generally observed to be worse) and afterwards the *Lac Ammon. &c.* as before.

E

Sept.

June 19, 1745. The first Time of his coming to the *Infirmary*, I ordered *Epispast. perpet. nuch.* The *Pil. fæt.* every other Day, and the *Elix. Vitriol. Myns.* twice a Day.

July 17. The Mother, to excuse her not coming for Medicines before, said she had been ill herself, and though the Child had not had Medicines for all the Time, yet she said his Running was not so violent, neither did he fall so hard. His Spirits, Memory and Speech seem better, his Lameness not quite so bad, but drivels as before. Had the Pills and Drops again.

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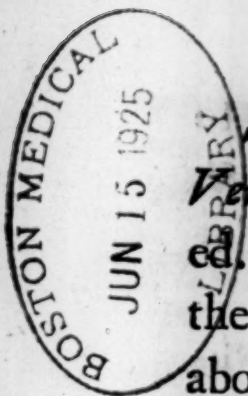
to loath his Pills, I ordered him to take the *Lac Ammon. cum Tinct. fulig.* twice a Day, and every other Morning an aperient Medicine.

Aug. 21. Has his Running Fits still, but not so violent, neither doth he fall down, but seems to be very much flustered; the Fit comes on with a Working in his Hands and Arms.—Had the last Medicines again.

Sept. 11. Some Boils broke out in his Head, is troubled very much with the *Vertigo*, but the Running Fits not so bad.—I ordered him to be blooded, to take an Emetic the Evening, and a Cathartic the Morning following (it being about the Change of the Moon, at which Time he was generally observed to be worse) and afterwards the *Lac Ammon. &c.* as before.

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Sept.



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Sept. 18. Had no Running Fits, *Vertigo*, Speech and Memory mended. — Now we returned again to the *Pil. fæt.* and *Elix. Vitriol.* as above.

Oct. 2. Continues on the mending Hand. Ordered *Pil. fæt.* and *Decoct. Lign.* for his common Drink.

Oct. 16. Had a Fit two Days ago, and cut his Forehead with the Fall. The Mother wished the miserable Child dead, and seemed to be out of Hopes of getting a Cure for him. Ordered Bleeding in the *Jugular*, an Emetic in the Evening, a gentle Paregoric going to Bed, and as his Appetite was very bad, the *Elix. Vitriol.* three Times a Day.

Nov. 1. The Fits much the same, his Lameness and Speech better, complained of Sickness at Stomach; ordered

dered another Emetic, the *Pil. fœt.* and *Elix. Vitr.* as before, and *Opo-deldoch* for his lame Limbs.

Nov. 8. Was taken into the House, had a Running Fit, and if a Patient had not catch'd him, would have run into the Fire.—Went on with the Pills and Drops; and a perpetual Blister was applied to the lame Arm.

These sort of Medicines were continued, with very little Alteration, the Child continuing to mend, though but slowly, 'till the 2. *Dec.* when I ordered again Evacuations by Bleeding and Purging, after that the Pills and Drops as before.

Dec. 6. Within these few Days last the Boy has mended considerably, his Speech and Understanding seem much clearer, the Driveling almost gone off, can hold a Cup and bring

it to his Mouth with the lame Arm, walks almost without Limping, has had no Fit for several Days, the last he had, did not run at all, was only giddy ; had like to fall down, but recovered soon.—Continued the Pills and Drops.

Dec. 10. The Boy continuing in a fine Way, was discharged out of the House, being now in a Situation of receiving his Cure as an Out-patient ; for this End a Quantity of the former Medicines were given him to go on with, and the Mother was told, if there was Occasion, she might apply for more.—As I have not heard from the Child since, I cannot say whether it was that he was perfectly well, or that they got him into some other Hospital. However from the great Amendment, a strong Presumption

sumption arises, that by pursuing this Method, a perfect Cure would have been obtained.

Dr. *Willis*, to account for this Symptom of Running, says, it is owing to an Explosion of the animal Spirits, and that the Body is hurried forwards, that being its natural Way of moving. The Doctrine of animal Spirits is yet undecided, and too abstruse for me to deduce Reasons *a priori* for this Phænomenon: But one may suppose that the Seat of the Distemper was in the Forepart of the Brain, from a Parity of Reasoning, as I have heard those that used to fall backwards, or sideways say, that they were always seized in the Part they fell upon, and the Concussions were most violent that Way.

In both these Cases the right Side was affected, also the Boy's Speech, but not the Girl's, which in Process of Time probably would have terminated in a perfect *Hemiplegia*. I imagine the right Lobe of the *Cerebrum* being affected, it pressed upon that Portion of the *Cerebellum*, and from thence proceeded the Obstruction of the Nerves on that Side.

Although the Boy had not had his Fits so long as the Girl, yet he was harder to cure than she, the Appearance of the *Menstrua*, which is the first of the grand Climacterics in Women, facilitating her Recovery greatly.

The Cure of both is chiefly performed by Evacuations, and bracing up the *primæ viæ* at the same Time.

CASE

C A S E III.

Epileptic Fits from Fright.

A *NN Spender*, aged seventeen, of a pale Complexion, was frightened into a Fit when three Quarters of a Year old, as her Mother informed me, by a great Dog. Her Mouth was drawn on one Side, her Eyes convulsed, opening and shutting alternatively, catching with her Hands, and afterwards lying still, like one stunned or dead.

Till the Age of eight or nine she had them almost every two or three Days, from that Time to fourteen or fifteen but once in two or three Months, so that the Mother was in great Hopes they were going to leave

her. But since that she has had them more frequent and stronger, and besides the beforementioned Symptoms, she now grinds her Teeth, catches and endeavours to bite every Thing near her, falls down on a sudden with Force like one dead, and is generally ill ten to fourteen Days after; and as she is of a peevish Temper, the least Fright or Vexation occasions a Fit.

Her Appetite is pretty good, when free from Fits; she is generally costive, thirsty, and feverish. Has a Pain at Stomach, Shortness of Breath, is low spirited, and has never had her *Menses*.

May 15, 1745. As her Mass of Blood seemed to be in a poor State, I thought it not proper to bleed her, but ordered her to take of the *Pil.*

Ecpbraet.

Ecphraet. every other Night, of *Spir. C. C. & Tinct. fulig. cum Ass. ana p. æq.* three Times a Day, or when faint and low, and a Blister to her Back.

June 12. Her Mother, being a poor Woman, excused her not coming again before now for Medicines, saying her Daughter had had some for most of the Time, and that she could not trust her alone on Account of her Fits. Had found more Benefit by these Remedies than any, though they had spent upon her all the Money they could spare. Has had no Fit a good while.

She had her Pills again, to be taken as before, and the *Elix. Vitriol.* twice a Day, also a perpetual Blister to her left Arm, above the Elbow.

June

June 29. Has had no Fits, her Breath still short, her Digestion bad, is faint and low spirited, has seen no Appearance of the *Menses* yet, and being costive,

I ordered her to take of our *Elect. deobstr.* Nights and Mornings, the *aper.* occasionally, and the *Elix. Vitr.* twice a Day.

July 30. Has gone on with the last Medicines ever since, has had no Fits, all the other Complaints ceased, and is now better than ever in her Life, excepting the Want of the *Catamenia*. Desires to return Thanks to the Board, which was granted.

Her Blood being much mended by the Use of the Chalybeate Medicines, I ordered her to be blooded in the Foot, *Pil. fæt.* and *Elix. Vitr.* to confirm her Cure, and in Case of
any

any Uneasiness on Account of the Want of her *Menses* to come to me again.

But as I have not heard from her since, it is to be supposed she became well in every Respect.

Till the Age of eight or nine she had Fits every two or three Days, which may be attributed to the Tenderness of her Nerves, as on the other Hand the Distance between them from nine to fourteen and fifteen, to the Increase of her bodily Strength. But as about this Time the female Frame comes to Maturity, and the *Menses* generally appear, the Seeds of latent Disorders are also often brought to Ripeness and make their Appearance; and as the Orgasm of the Juices runs high at this Time, the Fits shew'd themselves with greater Vigour than before. The

The Symptoms are now aggravated with a sudden falling down, and grinding of Teeth, which shews the Disease has now fixt its Seat in the Brain, and therefore is of the epileptic Order.

Her Complaint of Costiveness is common in nervous Disorders, and her Thirst and feverish Heat may proceed from a Defect in the Secretions and Excretions, the nervous System being deficient in its Functions, and in part to the Want of the *Menses*: To which also may be attributed in a great Measure, the Pain at her Stomach, Low-spiritedness, Shortness of Breath, &c.

CASE

C A S E IV.

Epileptic Fits from Fright.

A *NN Street*, aged twenty one, of a pale and languid Complexion, being two Years ago robbed upon the Road, was frightened into a Fit, in which she continued near two Hours, as they, who were come to her Assistance, told her.

After that she had a Fit every Day, nine Days successively, and then every full and new Moon, being pretty well the Time between. She falls down suddenly without any Notice, had a Fit in the Yard at the *Infirmery*, whilst she waited to be received as an Out-patient, which was so strong that several People could scarcely hold
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her

her to prevent her doing herself a Mischief, by the Violence of the Struggling. Her Senses and Strength are so much impaired by them, that she is not able to go to Service, which she has been obliged to quit on that Account.

She had her *Menses* regularly, but rather too abundant, 'till *Easter* last, since which Time they have stopt, and now she is troubled with Sicknes at Stomach, Shortness of Breath, and Pain in her left Side, below the *Costæ*.

The Fits come on with a great Faintness and Trembling all over, after that she loses her Senses, and falls down, struggling hard, and beating herself.

She also complains of a great Pain in the right Side of her Face, from
the

the Eye to the Teeth of that Jaw, which is come but lately, owing to a Cold, and has no Connexion with her nervous Disorder.——Her *Alvus* is regular, but her Urine generally high coloured.

Aug. 9, 1745. The low Condition she was in would not admit of Bleeding, I therefore ordered her to take one of our *Pil. aur.* two Nights following, a Dose of purging Salts, the Morning after the second Pill, and a Paregoric at Night after the Purge, and some *Tinct. fulig. cum Ass.* between whiles.

Aug. 12. Found herself much relieved and lightsomer, had had no Fits since. I ordered her to take a Dose of *Pil. fæt.* every other Night; the *Elix. Vitr. Myns.* twice a Day the intermediate Days, and some *Tinct. fulig. cum Ass.* when faint. *Aug.*

Aug. 21. Has had no Fits, is very faint, has a violent Pain in her Head, but is not quite so dizzy. Has a better Appetite to her Victuals, but vomits them up still, which Complaint however is not so bad as formerly.—— The same Medicines were repeated.

Aug. 30. No Fits, is troubled with the Head-ach, but not so often, nor so violently as before. Her Appetite better, and comes on, though is but very weak yet.——Continued the last Prescription, and *Pulv. Sternutator.* to be used Nights and Mornings.

Sept. 12. No Fits, her Appetite good, gathers Strength, and is pure hearty. Has seen a Shew of her *Menses.* As her Blood was considerably mended, I now ordered her to be blooded in the Foot, and a
mercurial

mercurial Pill at Night, a Purge the Morning following, and some *Tinct. fulig. cum Ass.* frequently to be taken, and in Case of Faintness.

Sept. 17. Finding herself quite well, she returned Thanks to the Board ; however to obviate all farther Difficulties in Regard to the *Menses*, I ordered her some *Tinct. Hier. cum Tinct. Mart. Myns.* also a stomachic Tincture *cum Tinct. Helleb. nig.* to be used some Time, and bid her apply to me for farther Assistance, if she found any Return of her Complaints : And as I have not heard from her since, conclude her perfectly cured.

There are several Instances in these Cases of Fits being worse about the Changes of the Moon. If this Planet

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has so great an Effect upon the Macrocosm, as to occasion the Swelling and Falling of the Ocean, why may it not be supposed that she has also some Influence on the Microcosm, the human Body? according to the Opinion of the learned Dr. *Mead*, in his Treatise *de Imperio Solis & Lunæ*. It is true, all are not affected alike, neither are all Constitutions equally sensible of the Changes of the Weather.

This Patient's *Menses* were at first too abundant, occasioned probably by the violent Agitations from the Fits, and when the Blood was impoverished they stopped. Then come on the common Symptoms of Obstruction, as also a Pain below the left Ribs, which is often observed to accompany a Stoppage of the *Menstrua*, and is perhaps

perhaps owing to a too great Fulness or Inlargement of the Spleen, from the Blood not circulating there so freely as it ought to do.

C A S E V.

A *NN Morly*, aged thirty one, about eight Years ago, on a sudden, and without any external Cause, fell down in a Fit, in which she continued about half an Hour, without any Struggling, her Face frequently changing red and pale during that Time. She had two or three of them in twenty four Hours for about a Month. Was blistered on the Head by the Advice of a Physician, and took various Medicines, which removed those falling Fits. But is still troubled with Syn-

copes, though less violent, which have followed her ever since pretty close, and has generally now one in about two or three Days; they make her Countenance change very pale, attended with Pain in her Loins, and cold clammy Sweats, and usually seize her in Bed towards Morning; when she perceives them coming on, is obliged to get up to rouse herself, which abates them in some Measure.

Has had her *Menses* all the while very regular, but within these six Months last, too many of them; at that Time finds no Alteration in her Disorder.

Her Urine is sometimes very thick and high-coloured, at other Times very pale. Has lost her Appetite, is frequently troubled with a Looseness and Pain of the Bowels, and is grown
so

so weak, that she is obliged to be led and supported like a Child.—Her Mother has spent all her Substance upon her, which is the Occasion of their applying to this Charity.

May 13, 1745. Imagining that the Seat of her Disorder was chiefly in the first Passages, though she was very low, I ventured to order her a little *Calom.* to be purged off the next Morning by a gentle cooling Cathartic, a Paregoric at Night, and *Tinct. fulig. cum Ass.* to be used when faint.

May 20. Was a little lightsomer after the Physick, but complained of a violent Pain in the Small of her Back, and makes but little Water, which is very thick.

Ordered *Pil. Balsam.* to be taken three Times a Day, with some *El.*

Vitr. Myns. in a Draught of Barley Water.

June 10. Faintings still bad, also violent Pain in the Small of her Back, and Colic.—Ordered an Elect. with *Cons. Cynosb. Bals. Locat.* and a little Z. Z. and the *Elix. Vitr. Myns.* twice a Day.

June 17. Fits better, but violent Pain from the left Kidney to the Groin, with Sickness at Stomach, and little Urine, high coloured.—*Menses* too abundant, also Complaints of the Heart-burn.—Ordered *Jul. Cretac.* and a Mixture with *Bals. Capiv.* Nights and Mornings.

June 24. Fits not so often, feels a great Uneasiness and Weight in the *Abdomen*, makes Urine in sufficient Quantity.—Ordered an Emetic, a perpetual Blister to the Arm, *Empl.*
de

de Galbano to the *Abdomen*, and a diuretic Tincture in Barley Water.

June 29. Fits again very bad, *Abdomen* easier.—Ordered an Electuary, with *Valerian*, *Castor*, and a little *Z. Z.* three Times a Day, with a Julep with *Sal C. C.*

July 12. Fits better, but the nephritic Complaints returned with Sickness at Stomach.—Ordered an oily Mixture, with *Spir. Nitr. dulc.* and a little *Laud. liquid.* and a terebinthinate Clyster.

Jul. 19. No Fits, nephritic Complaints better, but not quite gone.—Had the former Mixture, and *Pil. fœt.* every other Night.

July 24. No Fits, nephritic Pains still very bad, Urine high coloured, and but little.—*Pil. Balsam.* three Times a Day, with *Mixt. Salin. cum*

Succ. Limon. & Laud. liq. parva quantitate.

Aug. 2. No Fits, nephritic Complaints better, great Uneasiness at Stomach, and Colic Pains in the Bowels.—Ordered a carminative Mixture, with a little *Laud. liquid.*

Aug. 21. No Fits, but Pain at Stomach, and in the Small of the Back.—Ordered a strengthening Plaster to her Back, and *Tinct. Stomach. Amar.* three Times a Day.

Sept. 6. Has had Fits, but not so bad as formerly; has Pain at Stomach, and no Appetite, makes Urine freely.—Ordered *Pil. Stomach. c. Gumm.* Nights and Mornings, and a Mixture of *Tinct. Stomach. Amar. & Cinnam.* twice or oftner a Day.

Sept. 12. No Fits, a great Weakness in her Back.—Ordered another
Plaster

Plaster to her Loins, and the last Stomach Mixture.

Sept. 23. No Fits, nor nephritic Complaints, is now able to walk about and do a little Work, thinks as she grows stronger, the little Tremor which still remains, will go off, and desires to give Thanks, as she did accordingly the 24th. — Ordered her some *Pil. fæt.* and *Elix. Vit. Myns.* to establish her Cure.

This Case has in its Beginning the Appearance of an Epilepsy, though of the milder Sort, and the Syncopes she laboured under, when she first came to me, still argue that the Origin of the Nerves is chiefly concerned. — The Disorder begins in the Head, and often works off by the Bowels, in this it differs from the hysterical

sterc Fits, which generally begin in the *Abdomen*, and ascend to the Head.

Her being seized in Bed towards Morning may be owing to this, that after a long horizontal Posture, the Ventricles of the Brain, which in epileptic Cases commonly are found to contain a Quantity of Water, may have accumulated of it enough, to press upon the Origin of the Nerves, and bring on the Disorder: And by rousing herself, and bringing the Body into an erect Situation, it is dissipated in some Measure, and the Fit mitigated.

It is remarkable, that when the Fits were better after the Purge, the nephritic Complaints appeared, and when these were easier she had her Fits again. And thus she was visited
alter-

alternatively several Times, before the Cure was effected.

C A S E VI.

JANE Britt, fifteen Years old, of a spare Habit and fallow Complexion, had never had the *Menses*, was taken on *Whitsunday* 1745. (the Moon was full the next Morning at four o'Clock) going to kneel down at Church, with the Parish Children, of which she is one, with a Choaking, cold Sweat, and Fainting, and then fell down in a Fit at once, struggling, snapping, and biting at every Thing that came near her, with entire Loss of her Senses; which Fit lasted near one Hour and half, before she came to herself. And having gradually recovered from the

I Faintness

Faintness which she felt after the Fit, continued well 'till *Sunday* the 16th of *June*, when she had one of these Fits, in the Street, which lasted half an Hour, and since has had several to this Day 18. (the Moon changing to new this Morning) complaining at present of a violent Head-ach, *Vertigo*, Sickness at Stomach, and universal Languor.

I ordered her to lose a little Blood, a Blister in the Neck, a Dose of *Pil. fœt.* every other Day, and the *Elix. Vitr. Myns.* twice a Day.

June 21. She was admitted into the House, her Blister discharged very well, the Pills had operated kindly, the *Elix. Vitr.* sat easy upon her Stomach, and she thought herself relieved every Way.—The Pills and Drops continued,

June

June 24. Had several Fits since I saw her last, but shorter, and not so strong, her Head not so much affected, complains of a Pain in her Limbs; which I imagining proceeded from the Efforts of Struggling, had no particular Regard to, but bid her go on as before.

July 1. Had no Fits since my last Prescription, but the Sicknefs at Stomach, and *Vertigo* had troubled her several Times within these two Days. Pain of her Limbs better.—I ordered her to lose some Blood from the Foot, and to continue her Medicines.

July 2. The Pain of her Limbs being quite gone, and having had but a slight Attack of a Fit Yesterday Afternoon (this Day the Moon changes to full) thought herself well enough to return Thanks, and continue an
Out-

Out-patient to compleat her Cure; for which End she had some of the aforefaid Medicines with her.

July 11. She came as an Out-patient, has had no Fits, but complains of a great Pain of her Head and Stomach. She had the *Pil. fœt.* and some of our *Tinct. amar. comp.*

July 23. Has had no Fits, but a Working in her Bowels all last Week like Fits, attended with frequent Shivering, but no Struggling. She had been costive most Part of the Week, and as I attributed the Working in her Bowels chiefly to the purgative Quality of the Pills not taking Effect, I ordered her to take some *Tinct. jalap.* in the Morning after the Pills, and the *Elix. Vitr. Myns.* the Days between.

Aug.

Aug. 20. Her last Medicines had held out almost to this Time. Has had no Fits, and found the Working of her Bowels gone off with the last prescribed Medicines, and is now well in every Respect. I ordered her to continue these Medicines a little longer to confirm her Cure.

This Girl was cured of her Fits, before she had any Appearance of her *Menses*, but as her Complexion began to be florid, and her Blood seemed to be much mended, I am inclinable to think she had them soon, or has no Complaint on that Account, else I should probably have heard from her since.

These Fits were of the epileptic Sort, and there is some Reason to suppose they were hereditary, and that the Seeds of the Distemper had lain

lain dormant in the Habit 'till the Age of Puberty, to which she was now arrived : For her Father, she told me, has had epileptic Fits many Years, and her Sister, who is twenty six Years old, has had them from her Infancy.

C A S E VII.

Fits from a frightful Dream.

E *Liz. Carey*, aged twenty two, of a robust Habit of Body, about twelve Months ago waked out of a frightful Dream, upon which she presently felt a great Commotion in her Bowels and Stomach, fell into a Fit, screaming, struggling, clenching her Hands, and beating her Stomach and Breast in such a Manner, that
three

three or four Women could hardly keep her from hurting herself. She drew her Legs up behind to such a Degree, that her Mother feared, she would never have the Use of them again. In this Manner she continued quite senseless, for about two Hours; at the End of the Fit she voided her Urine involuntarily, and afterwards was a considerable Time very faint and languid, with Loss of Appetite and Tremor.

These Fits followed her at that Time about a Week, so that she had commonly several in a Day; and at first but very little Interval between.

—After that she was two Months without them; then about three Months, and thus has had them since from Time to Time, the least Fright or Surprise occasioning them: Ob-

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served that she was always worse at the periodical Return of the *Menses*, which she had regularly.

She also complained of a muscular Pain in the left Side, the lower Part of the *Costæ*, which first had seized her about three Years since, after violent Exercise, attended with a Shortness of Breath, but no Cough. Whenever she walked fast, or used any strong Motion, it grew troublesome, was easiest when kept herself quiet, and so ill at first lying down in Bed, that she could hardly draw Breath, but after some Rest grew easier.—She had been blooded for it several Times, and found herself always better after.

She came a Petitioner to the *Infirmmary* the 8th of *May*, 1745. I ordered her to be blooded, and six mercurial

mercurial Pills, to take one Nights and Mornings, and the Morning of the last Pill the Purging Powder and Cathartic Salt, and the Night after the Operation of the Cathartic a pargoric Bolus; imagining that the Pain in her Side proceeded from a scorbutic Obstruction in the Vessels of the Part affected, and which was the most urgent Complaint, especially as I knew that Purging could be no Detriment in such a replete Habit in Regard to her Fits, but rather be a Preparative for proper Medicines hereafter to remove them.—I also proposed a Blister upon the painful Part, which was omitted, upon her assuring me, that she had had some, but that they occasioned such a Heat and Throbbing, that it almost stopt her Breath.

May 13. Complained of being low and faint, and that the Pain of her Side was still very troublesome. I ordered her a Dose of the *Pil. fœt.* every other Night, and take two Spoonsful twice or three Times a Day of an oily Mixture *cum Sal. C. C. & Laud. liq.*

May 15. The Pain still very bad and had her Fits, she had besides the foregoing Medicines *Tinct. fulig. cum Aff.* to take when her Dizziness, of which she complained, was troublesome, or when she imagined a Fit was coming on.

May 22. The Pain still very bad at Nights, with a great Tremor left after the Fits. I ordered her a Dose of the *Pil. Ruff.* every other Night, and a paregoric Pill every Night going to Rest, to silence the Pain; and
a Mix-

a Mixture of *Lac Ammon. cum Tinct. fulig. cum Ass. & Laud. liq.* to take a Spoonful three or four Times a Day.

May 30. Was better of her Fits, for a Gun going off close by her, only made her very sick, and put her into a great Tremor, but had no Fit, which otherwise would have ensued even from a less Surprise.——I ordered Bleeding, it being near the full Moon, and as she complained of such a Weakness at Stomach, that she brought up her Medicines, to take of our *Tinct. Cathol.* a Spoonful Nights and Mornings, and a Tea Spoonful of the *Tinct. fulig. cum Ass. & Laud. liq.* twice or three Times a Day in a Glass of fair Water.

June 4. The Sickness still continuing, she had again the *Tinct. Cathol.*

with some *Tinct. Mart. Myns.* and the *Tinct. fulig. cum Laud. liq.* to be taken as before.

June 7. The Sickneſs at Stomach was ſomewhat abated, but ſhe now complained of a great Heart-burn. I preſcribed again the *Tinct. Cath. cum Tinct. Mart.* as before, and the *Ful. Cret. Bat.* with a ſmall Proportion of *Laud. liq.* to take frequently in a Day. She had had no Fits, but as ſhe was troubled with a great Diziſneſs of the Head, ſhe loſt again about eight Ounces of Blood.—The Pain of her Side was better.

June 14. Had no Fit, Pain of her Side well, her Diziſneſs and Heart-burn better.—She had the Tincture and Julep as before.

June 25. Being almoſt well, I ordered the laſt Medicines once more.

July

July 2. She came to return Thanks; it being about the Change of the Moon, I advised her to be blooded, and to take of the *Pil. Ruff.* a Dose every other Night for six or seven Times, and of the *Elix. Vitr.* twice a Day in a Glass of Water, to confirm the Cure.

The waking out of a frightful Dream, and Convulsions immediately ensuing upon it, might argue that the Disorder took its Rise in the Brain, and therefore should be stiled epileptic. However, as it may be supposed the Beginning of it was in the *plexus* of the epigastric Nerves, which by Consent impressed those frightful Ideas upon the Brain, and as the Tragedy was chiefly transacted in the inferior Parts of the Body, the crural Nerves being more violently contracted than

those of the Arms, we will call these Fits of the mixt Sort.

The involuntary Emission of Urine, or of the *Fæces*, is commonly numbered among the Symptoms of the Epilepsy, because it shews so great a Relaxation in the Nerves of those Parts, as is seldom met with in hysterical Fits. And her being afterwards a considerable Time very faint and languid, with Loss of Appetite and Tremor, still farther confirms the Greatness of the Fatigue the Nerves had undergone.

She was worse about the Time of the *Menses*, not on Account of the Discharge, because Bleeding commonly relieved her, but the Orgasm happening at that Time in the *Abdomen*, may easily be supposed to disturb the Nerves, which were tender by being
so

so often vellicated by those violent Spasms.

The Pain of her Side, as it was previous to these Fits, so it had no Concern with them, but seemed to be of the hot scurvy Kind, contracted from overheating her Blood, and which the Heat of the *Cantharides* rather exasperated, but was mitigated, when the Humors were kept in a quiet State, and with gentle Perspiration by the Warmth of the Bed.

C A S E VIII.

Fits after a Fever.

E *Liz. Maccullow*, a single Woman, aged about twenty two, of a pale Complexion, but pretty robust Habit, was taken ill in *January*

nuary last at Service of a Fever with Eruptions, a more particular Account she could not give of that Illness, for which she was removed to a Relation's House. And being recovered of the Fever, she was afflicted with a Heaviness of the Head, and Uneasiness all over, with Oppression at Stomach, which soon was followed by Faintings. This Disorder increased upon her to that Degree, that from Time to Time she had strong Convulsion Fits, and between whiles Faintings, which rendered her incapable of going to Service: She had no Complaint to make of the *Menses*; and though she had taken various Medicines, continued in this State 'till she came to the *Infirmary*, which was the 25th of *March* last.

As

As I imagined the febrile Matter had not been duly discharged, but left a Load upon the nervous System, I began with Evacuation in the following Manner: I ordered a small Dose of Calomel for two Nights running, and to purge it off the third Morning, and a paregoric Bolus at Night. She had at the same Time some of the *Tinct. fulig. cum Ass.* with a small Proportion of *Laud. liq.* of which she was ordered to take two or three Times every Day, or when faint.

March 29. She finding herself somewhat relieved by the former Medicines, I ordered her the same again.

April 1. She had them once more.

Apr. 5. She had had but a slight Return of a Fit, but finding herself pretty much weakened with the Purg-

ing, and afflicted with a Tremor, some Faintings between whiles, and Sickneſs at Stomach, I ordered her the *Pil. ſæd.* to take a Doſe of them every other Night, and ſome of the *Elix. Vitr. Mynſ.* twice a Day; to brace up the Stomach and nervous Syſtem.

Apr. 9. She had more of the *Pil. ſæd.* and *Elix. Vitr. Mynſ.* to be taken as before; ſhe finding her nervous Weakneſs and Complaint of the Stomach much relieved.

Apr. 19. As theſe Medicines agreed with her, and her Diſorder decreaſed, I ordered them to be continued.

Apr. 24. She went on mending, and had the ſame Preſcription again.

May 1. Had had no Convulſion Fit, but complained of a great Dizziness of the Head, and Uneaſineſs
all

all over. I ordered the *Pil. fæt.* to be repeated as before, and a Mixture with *Sal. Vol. C. C. Tinct. fulig. cum Aff.* and a small Proportion of *Laud. liq.* to be taken twice a Day, or at any Time when the Disorder was vehement upon her.

May 8. Her Complaint was considerably abated by the last Medicines, therefore went on with them.

May 13. She found herself well, save that she was very weak, and that any Hurry or Surprise still seemed to have some Effect upon her. I ordered an Electuary *cum Cort. Peruv. & Mart.* to be taken Nights and Mornings, and some of the *Elix. Vitr. Myns.* twice a Day, to brace up the relaxed Fibres and Nerves, which had the desired Effect. For on the 29th of *May* she came and returned

returned Thanks to the Board of the weekly Committee for her Cure; and in *June* following I saw her with another Patient, whom she accompanied to the *Infirmary*, when she told me with a chearful Countenance, that she had continued ever since, and was now, perfectly well.

Although it is not easy to determine, in what Part of the nervous System the febrile *saburra* had been deposited, yet it is highly probable, from Appearance, that it accumulated at Times in the Brain, because the Scene had commonly its Beginning in the Head, and that therefore in Time it probably would have become truly epileptick.

CASE

C A S E IX.

Fits from Pregnancy.

A *NN Roe*, aged twenty eight, of a healthy and robust Constitution, who had missed her *Menses* from the Time she was married, which was between two and three Months, was taken suddenly with a Fit, clinching her Hands, beating her Stomach and Head, and struggling so hard with her Body and Legs, that several People could hardly keep her from doing herself Hurt. She had never had any Fits before.

When I saw her (which was the 22d of *Decemb.* 1744.) she had been from one Fit into another near eighteen Hours. They had given her

Tinct.

Tinct. fulig. cum Ass. and *Sp. C. C.* but instead of diminishing, the Fits grew stronger, and so frequent, that she had scarcely Interval enough now to take any Thing, or to make any rational Answer; but when she was asked where her Pain was, she pointed to the Head and Stomach.

I ordered her a Dose of the *Tinct. Hier.* with a few Grains of *Sal. C. C.* and some Drops of *Tinct. theb.* to be given as soon as possible, to bleed her largely in the Arm, and to apply a Blister on the Head as soon as it was practicable; and a Solution of the *G. Ammon.* with some *Tinct. fulig. cum Ass.* to be taken a Spoonful frequently.

Dec. 24. She had been blooded, the Blister applied, and the purging Mixture operated very well; the Fits had

had almost left her, and as she still complained of a violent Pain in her Head and Stomach, I ordered her the same Mixture again, to take a Spoonful Nights and Mornings, and to continue the Solution of the *G. Ammon.* as before.

Dec. 31. The Fits were quite gone; but as she complained of a great Uneasiness all over, and Tremor, and the Pain of the Stomach and Head still was troublesome, the same Medicines were ordered once more.

She said she perceived no Dizziness at all in her Head, but that it felt weak and light, which she imagined might be owing to the great Discharge from the Blister, therefore prayed to have it dry'd up, which I accordingly consented to.

H

Jan.

Jan. 11. An Uneasiness at Stomach, Want of Appetite and Lassitude were now the only Complaints remaining, I therefore prescribed a Dose of *Pil. Ruff.* to be taken every other Night, and some of the *Elix. Vitr. Myns.* twice a Day in a Glass of fair Water.

Jan. 21. She had the last Medicines again, and a little while after that she came and returned Thanks to the Board for her Cure.

She continued well 'till *June*, when I heard she had her Fits again, but that the good Women were not for her taking any Medicines, imagining that the Fits were owing to her Pregnancy, she being then again with Child, and that she must miscarry now, as she had done the former Time, in order to get rid of her Fits,

judging

judging her on this Account incapable of bearing Children.

Thus a great deal of Mischief is daily done by Persons who take upon them to give their Opinion in Diseases, when they have not the least Pretension to any Skill in Physick.

For it is not improbable, a Woman in these Circumstances might be conducted through her Pregnancy, by seasonable Bleedings, proper Evacuations and Corroborants, made use of, the first three or four Months especially, which are frequently attended with various Difficulties, and which being well got over, the Remainder commonly pass away with Ease and Safety.

These Fits at first Sight seem to come under the Denomination of Hysterick, in as much as they probably

proceed from the Enlargement of the Womb, occasioning a Pressure upon the *Plexus mesentericus*, or neighbouring Nerves or Membranes. But as the Tragedy was play'd off from the Head, where she felt great Pain, I think they are not improperly called Epileptic, although brought on from a distant Cause. Add to this, that she also pointed at the Stomach, and beat herself there with both her Hands clenched, as persons in epileptic Fits usually do.—The epileptic Fit, proceeding from the Pressure of a *Ganglion* upon a Nerve in the Leg, mentioned in the Introduction, illustrates this Case sufficiently.

C A S E X.

Hereditary Syncope.

M*Ary Lovell*, aged twenty three, had been subject to fainting Fits from her Birth. Her Mother had such Fits from a Fright, whilst she was pregnant with her, and had one at the Time of Delivery, and she, the Child, was in one, as she was told, when she came into the World.

At first coming on, she feels as if prick'd with Pins and Needles, all over her Flesh, afterwards ensues such a violent Pain at Stomach, that to ease herself, she could tear herself open, as she expressed it. Then her Head is seized with a confused Pain,

upon which she loses her Senses, faints, and almost dies away, for her Countenance turns ghastly, her Lips black, the Nose pinched in, her Eyes shut, and her Body and Limbs lie motionless and stretch'd out as if dead for about a Quarter of an Hour.— Then she comes to herself again by Degrees, but remains with a Sickness at Stomach, trembling all over, and is very weak and ill, her Senses almost stupified, for a Day or two after.— She has strove against them, being told it was owing to a fanciful Apprehension, with walking about, when she found them coming on, taking off her Cloaths, unlacing her Stays, &c. but all to no Effect.

Five Years ago, she had the tertian Ague, for about three Months, during which Time she usually had

two

two or three of these Fits on her ill Days.

About the Age of sixteen her *Menses* appeared, when she found no Amendment of her Fits, but that she was in great Pain all over, about the Time of their Return, more than is usual for other Women to be.

Observed, that a hard Days Work, too much Walking, or any other Fatigue, great Mirth, taking Cold, or Vexation, would bring them on.—The last she had was about a Month ago.—Two Years since she has laboured almost under a continual Working and Pain at Stomach, especially after Eating, when with breaking Wind upwards, she frequently voides her Viſtuals by Mouthfuls.—She also complains of Pains in her Arms and Legs, which renders them

stiff and almost useless, and is in such Misery when in Bed, that she is frequently obliged to get up. — She has her *Menstrua* regularly, though but sparingly; her *Alvus* orderly, and Urine generally pale. She has lost Flesh and Strength, to such a Degree, that she apprehends herself to be in a Consumption, and on Account of her Fits, has frequently been obliged to quit her Service, which is her Case at present.

June 1, 1745. I ordered her to be blooded, a Blister in the Neck, to take of our *Tinct. Cathol.* Nights and Mornings, and a stomachic Tincture about eleven in the Forenoon, and at six in the Afternoon.

June 4. Had no Fits, brings up her Aliments, and has still a great Uneasiness at Stomach. The Pains
of

of her Limbs not much mitigated. I ordered the *Tinct. Cathol.* and stomachic Tincture to be continued.

June 12. No Fits, the Rheumatic Pains easier, rests better; the Vomiting better, still very sick at Stomach. — Ordered a perpetual Blister on the left Arm, the *Tinct. Cathol.* as before, and the *Elix. Vit.* in Lieu of the Stomach Tincture, imagining her Stomach to be now in a Condition to bear the Acid, which I apprehended before might be too pungent.

June 14. No Fits, the Pain of her Limbs almost well, the Vomiting stopt, Sickness at Stomach and Appetite better; is still very faint, though also in this Respect not so bad as before. Went on with the last Medicines.

June

June 21. As she mended, and the Medicines agreed very well, I ordered them to be repeated.

June 24. No Fits, was better of all the former Disorders, complained she was greatly afflicted with the *fluor albus*, which weaken'd her extremely. I ordered a strengthening Plaster to her Loins, and to take of our corroborating Pills three Times a Day, with some of the stomachic Tincture.

June 26. No Fits, Head and Stomach better, but the *fluor albus* still very bad, and complained of a great Uneasiness and Tremor. She had the *Lac Ammoniacum cum Tinct. fulig. cum Ass.* to take between whiles, and the Pills and Bitter as before.

June 28. No Fits, Head and Stomach better; *fluor albus* better. The last Medicines were continued. July

July 1. No Fits, Head and Stomach well; *fluor albus* continued mending. Went on as before.

July 2. Continued in a fine Way, returned Thanks to the Board, and had her Medicines with her to perfect her Cure as an Out-patient, which I ordered her to do at least a Month longer, to see whether she remained free from her Fits three Months, their longest Distance, that she might be assured of a Cure. But as I have not seen her to this Day, the 24th of May, 1746. I conclude she has been well ever since.

Here is an hysterical Case, representing the human Frame under most dismal Circumstances. It is hereditary and so rooted in the Habit, that it begins in the extreme Filaments

laments of the Nerves, the peccant Matter being accumulated in a Period of Time, and the Constitution not being vigorous enough to throw it off by the Pores, it occasions on the Surface the Sensation of pricking of Pins; and when it is absorbed into the Habit, it first exerts its Fury upon the nervous Coat of the Stomach, then attacks the Brain, and after that displays the horrid Scene over the whole Body, depriving it of all visible Motion, except the Vibration of the Arteries. And that this is also greatly hindered, appears from the ghastly and corps-like Appearance in the Face.

The above Theory is confirmed by the frequent Repetition of them during her tertian Ague, when insensible Perspiration is very deficient,

as also that hard Exercise, Passions of the Mind, and taking Cold, which have the same Effect, bring them on.

The Weakness at her Stomach shews how greatly the nervous System had been debilitated by the long Vexation of these Fits, which is confirmed by the sparing *Menstrua*, Loss of Flesh, Strength, and general Decay.

She also complains of Rheumatic Pains in her Limbs, which her nervous Weakness had so far aggravated that she had almost lost the Use of them.

The Uterine Vessels were also so much debilitated by the Violence of this nervous Complaint, that she had the *fluor albus* to a great Degree; which was however the easier to cure, the Nerves being made stronger, by the Remedies made use of in this Process.

CASE

C A S E XI.

A Servant Maid about eighteen, of a strong Habit, and healthy Constitution, was taken suddenly with Fits, beating herself, struggling with her Body and Legs, and working her Head backwards with such Violence, that several Men were tired with holding her, to prevent her doing herself a Mischief. She screamed, foamed at Mouth, clenched her Jaws and Hands, and the Intervals were so short, that she had not Time to come to understand what was said to her, or to take any Thing; neither was it possible to bleed her, or to use any other Means, but applying externally Spirit of Hartshorn, cold Water, burning of Feathers under her Nostrils,

strils, &c. Notwithstanding which she continued in this Condition near eight Hours, when she gradually came to herself. Then she was blood-ed, and took a Dose of *Tinct. Hier.* with some *Tinct. fulig. cum assa*, which operated very well, and a Blister was applied to her Back.— After this she took some of the *Pil. fæt.* Nights and Mornings, and the *Elix. Vitr. Myns.* twice a Day, which was continued some Time; since that she has never had the least Appearance of any Fits or nervous Disorder, which is near five Years since.

This young Woman was very well in the Morning, eat her Dinner as usual, and the Fits did not seize her till between six and seven in the Evening. All that I could learn concerning the Cause of them was, that
in

in the Afternoon, there being some *Burton* Ale bottling off, she had drunk of it; yet not so much as to intoxicate her, for she had waited at Tea-table very well. Whether this Liquor, which is very windy, and subject to a strong Fermentation, could by dilating the Stomach beyond its natural Capacity, bring on those violent Spasms, or whether they were occasioned by its volatile and acrimonious Particles stimulating the nervous System, or both, I leave to the Judgment of the Reader.

C A S E XII.

A Man of about fifty, of a strong and replete Habit, a Drinker of strong Beer and Spirituous Liquors, had daily twelve or more Convulsions, which

which affected his whole Body. His Eyes remained open and fixt, he lost his Speech during that Time, had a Contraction in both his Hands, and could not stand upon his Legs, but understood all that was said. The Fits came on with an Uneasiness in the *Hypochondrium*, a nauseating at Stomach, succeeded by a copious driveling of Spittle from his Mouth. They lasted about a Quarter of an Hour; when gone off he recovered his Speech, which however was very much impaired by the frequent Return of his Fits.

He had already, by the Apothecary's Directions, been blooded, taken several Doses of *Tinct. Sacr.* also nervous Medicines, as *Aff. fæt. Valer. Sal. Succin. &c.* but found no Amendment.

I Imagining

Imagining that the Juices being too viscid and abundant, might by their Pressure and Want of free Circulation check the Course of the nervous Fluid, and occasion these Spasms, I directed my first Intention to emptying and thinning them. That being effected, a Course of nervous, and corroborating Medicines might take Place and compleat the Cure. I therefore ordered him to lose some Blood from the Foot, then to take a Bolus with Calomel, Valerian, and *Cons. Anth.* two Nights following, and to purge it off the third Morning with some of the *Pil. Bellost*, and a Paregoric at Night.

After this Process he was abundantly better, he had now only one or two Fits in a Day, and those not so strong as before: His Speech was mended,

mended, as also his Memory, which he had almost lost, and made him look like an Ideot.—I ordered this Course to be repeated, and as he complained of a Stiffness in his Tongue, I directed thirty or forty Drops of *Spir. Lav. C.* to be dropt upon a Lump of Sugar, and to be swallowed gradually, and to take as much Horse Radish and Mustard with his Eatables as he could.

The Fits being intirely removed by this Means, and his Speech recovered, I prescribed a Course of nervous and corroborating Medicines to establish the Cure.

Mercury is commonly look'd upon as injurious to the Nerves, but that it is of excellent Service in some of these Cases, when applied judiciously, may be collected from this, the

I 2 following

following Case, and many other Instances.

C A S E XIII.

Universal Spasms about the Time of the Menfes going off.

A Woman of a robust Habit was, in *Decemb.* 1744, taken in Bed, being very well the Day before, with a sudden Starting, and convulsive Contractions of the whole Body, without Loss of her Senses, which lasted but a Moment, but was so violent, that the Bed crack'd under her, and returned so frequently, that the Apothecary would not undertake to bleed her, for Fear of doing her an Injury with his Lancet. He therefore gave her a Dose of *Tinct. Sacr.* and for two or three Days after *G. Assæ Ammon. Castor.* and Volatile Medi-

Medicines, and applied a Blister to her Back.

When I came to her, I found her sitting in her Chair, and whilst I was enquiring into the Nature of her Case, she had a Fit almost every Minute. She complained of no Head-ach or *Vertigo*, or Sickness at Stomach, or any Pain at all. She could use her Limbs during the Intervals very well all over, neither was she sensible where these sudden Spasms had their Beginning.

She was about forty six Years old, the *Menstrua* had been dodging her for some Time; was pretty corpulent, a sober Liver, and continued having a good Appetite.

I judging in this Case as in the former, that a *Plethora* and Viscidity of the Juices might give Rise to these

Spasms, ordered her to take a *Bol.* with *Calom.* at Night, a Cathartic Draught the Morning following, and a Paregoric with some *Tinct. Cast.* the Night after the Purge.

The Day after, if her Fits were less, and her Arms or Legs could be kept steady enough, to take away twelve or fourteen Ounces of Blood, and for two Days following a Draught with *G. Ass. feet.* & *Ammon.* every five or six Hours.

The third Night the Calomel Bolus again, the Purging Potion the Morning following, and the Paregoric Draught at Night.

The Day of this second Purge I went to see her again in the Afternoon, and found that the Cathartic had operated very well, that she had been blooded, and taken the other
Medi-

Medicines, and was so much mended, that this Day she had but two or three Fits, and those but very slight ones.

I ordered the same Course to be repeated once more, and afterwards, according as she found herself, to take the Bol. and Cathartic Potion, once or twice a Week.

She was for some Days, as I was informed, quite well, but afterwards relapsed. As I was not consulted any more, I cannot say what it was owing to; though from the Success we had in checking the Fits, one might reasonably be induced to imagine that some such Course pursued, with Care, would in Time have effected a Cure.

C A S E XIV.

*Hysteric Fits about the Time of the
Menstrua going off.*

HAnnah Hartwell, forty four Years old, had been taken about a Month ago with Giddiness and Numbness of the Head, of which she was relieved by Bleeding. After that was taken with a Tremor all over, inward Fluttering, Sinking and Faintings, Pain at Stomach, Reaching and Spitting abundantly, especially in the Morning getting out of Bed, white frothy Flegm (to use her own Expression) like Milk from the Cow. She had lost her Appetite, was wasted, and had not seen her *Menses* about six Months last past.

May 20, 1745. I ordered her to be blooded, a Calomel Pill at Night, the purging Salts the Morning following, a Paregoric at Night, and *Tinct. fulig. cum Ass.* to be taken when faint.

May 22. Though the Evacuation had sunk her a little, she found herself relieved.——Ordered now *Pil. fæt.* every other Night, and a Mixture with *Lac Ammon.* some *Tinct. fulig. cum Ass.* and a little *Laud. liq.* to be used two or three Times a Day.

June 5. Had seen her *Menses* the 29th past, since which has found her Spirits greatly revived. Her Trembling still very troublesome at Times, also Shaking of her Legs, so that her Knees beat against each other, with Reaching and Gaping, as if her Jaws were to be split, and Dizziness of the

the Head. The last Medicines having agreed very well, ordered them to be repeated.

June 14. Having got a Cold, is rather worse again, complains of Sickness and Swelling at Stomach.

Ordered *Mixt. Cath. cum Tinct. Mart. Myns.* to be taken Night and Morning, and *Tinct. fulig. cum Ass.* frequently.

June 17. No fainting Fits, is low-spirited, complains of a Snapping in her Head at Night, and working as if it were coming to Pieces.—As she complained of Costiveness, I added to the Mixture some *Tinct. jalap.* the *Tinct. fulig.* as before, and a Blister in her Neck.

June 24. Spitting much better, Fits don't last so long, Sighing troublesome, and is low-spirited.—Ordered the last Medicines again. *July*

July 3. The 30th past, and first present Month, had several struggling Fits, occasioned by a Fright.—

Ordered *Pil. Epilept.* three Times a Day, with some *El. Vitr. Myns.* and *Tinct. fulig. cum Ass.* occasionally.

July 15. Had one Fit since last Prescription, is very low and faint, Palpitation of the Heart very troublesome, finds herself best after Purg-
ing.—Ordered *V. S.* a Calomel Pill at Night, a Purge next Morning, a Paregoric at Night, and a perpetual Blister on the Arm.

July 19. Had one Fit yesterday, but shorter and not so strong, Palpitation of the Heart better, is not so low and faint.—Ordered a Calomel Pill two Nights following, and the Cathartic the third Morning; also *Lac Ammon. cum Tinct. fulig.* to be used frequently.

July

July 26. No Fits, has Trembling and Horrors upon her Spirits, and Sinking at Stomach; the Purge as before, and a bitter Mixture to be taken twice a Day.

Aug. 2. Had several Attacks, but no Fits; her Spirits, Appetite and Strength better; sighing, still troublesome, but not so bad.—Had the last Medicines again, also *Tinct. fulig. cum Ass.* to be taken when faint.

Aug. 12. Had a slight Fit two Days ago, still very uneasy at Stomach, complains of the *fluor albus*, with great Weakness and Pain in the Small of her Back. Ordered *Tinct. Cath.* Nights and Mornings, *El. Vitr.* twice a Day, and a corroborating Plaster to her Back.

Aug. 19. Had a violent Head-ach last Week before the *Menses* came down,

down, which is better since; had also four Days running some slight Fits, her Flesh feels numb'd all over; Spitting and Stomach better.

Ordered another Blister in the Arm, *Pil. fæt.* every other Night, some *Tinct. jalap.* the Morning after, she being very hard to move, and the *Lac Ammon. cum Tinct. fulig.* as before.

Aug. 26. No Fits, Head-ach very bad, Numbness better, is very faint and low.—Ordered her to go on with the same Medicines.

Sept. 6. Had one struggling Fit the 3d, very slight, Fainting much better, has Pain and Swelling at Stomach.—Went on as before.

Sept. 24. Had no Fits a pretty while, and well of all Complaints, save a little Tremor.—Desired to
I
return

return Thanks to the Board.—Ordered *V. S.* and the last Medicines again to perfect her Cure.

The Length of this Process doubtless was greatly owing to her Poverty, she not having the Means of indulging the Operation of her Medicines, as the Rich may ; to the Fretting on Account of her mean Circumstances, and the critical Time of her Constitution, the going off of the *Menses*.

C A S E XXV.

Palsy, with Sight, Hearing, and Understanding impaired, from external Injury.

David Manson, aged forty three, of a healthy Constitution and robust Habit, about ten Months ago
I received

received a Blow on the right *Os Zy-*
goma, which stunned him so that he
 fell down on the Ground. When he
 was taken up they found that he had
 lost his Speech, his Understanding and
 Memory, also partly his Sight and Hear-
 ing, with Numbness all over, so that he
 appeared like a Natural or Idiot. He
 also at the same Time was deprived
 of the Use of his right Arm, that
 Leg was also so much affected,
 that he walked with a good deal
 of Difficulty. A few Days after
 the Accident, a Pain seized the
 left Side of his Head, about the *Os*
Bregmatis, where he received no
 Hurt, which was constant, and some-
 times so exquisite, that he thought it
 would make him raving mad. He
 had been blooded and taken Medicines
 from an Apothecary, but to little
 Purpose.

When

When he came to the *Infirmary*, on the 5th of *July*, 1745. his Wife attended him to tell me his Case, he not being capable of doing it himself, for want of Understanding, as well as of his Speech, which however he had recovered so far as to be able to utter a few Monosyllables, though but imperfectly.—His Appetite was all the while pretty good, but his *Alvus* generally costive.

I ordered him to be blooded, a Blister to the Nape of his Neck, some of the *Pil. fæt.* every other Night, and as of late he had been very costive a purging Mixture the Morning following, and a Paregoric at Night, and the *Elix. Vitr. Myns.* three Times a Day the intermediate Days.

July 12. The Pain of his Head was easier, his Speech freer, his Arm
and

and Leg not so lame, and his Sight and Understanding better. But he complained of a new Pain, which was in the Small of his Back, attended with some Difficulty of making Water. As this was but lately come, when the Blister was almost dried up, I did not attribute it to the Effect of the *Cantbarides*, but rather to a Translation of the peccant Matter from the nervous System upon the urinary Vessels, which I have observed has happened to several of my Patients under nervous Complaints, when they came to be on the mending Hand.

The former Medicines were continued, and for his new Disorder I prescribed an oily Mixture with some *Spir. Nitr. d.* and a small Proportion of *Laud. liq.*

K

July

July 22. He was so far recovered that he came alone, being now able to speak for himself. He had the Pills and purging Mixture again; but as the Pain of his Back, and Difficulty of Urine were not much mended, he was blooded again, and had a Mixture with *Bals. Capiv. Spir. Nitr. dulc.* and a little *Laud. liq.* to take frequently.

Aug. 5. He came with a most joyful Countenance, to tell me that he was perfectly well, his Sight, Memory and Speech being as good as ever, and his Pains and Lameness quite removed, and therefore desired to return his hearty Thanks to the Board for his great Cure.—I ordered him however some of the *Pil. foet.* and the *Lac Ammon. cum Tinct. fulig.* to take for some Time, to strengthen

then

then his Nerves and to prevent a Relapse.

Although this Case doth not properly belong to the Class of Convulsions, yet as it shews the surprising Effect external Injury may have upon the nervous System, I thought it not improper to allow it a Place here to corroborate the preceding Cases.—From the Loss of his Understanding, Memory, and total Numbness, we cannot but think that the Origin of Nerves had received such a Shock, that they were greatly hindered in their Functions in general; and in particular, that the Blow had touched and bruised some Branch of the 5th Pair, which disperses many Twigs there, and immediately are concerned in the Or-

gans of Sight, Hearing, and Speech. And as Branches of this Pair inosculate with the Nerves of the *Vertebrae* of the Neck, out of which the Nerve moving the Arm arises, the Loss of its Motion is easy to conceive. But that one Side of the *Spinalis Medulla* should partake of this Injury, so far as to affect the crural Nerve of that Side only, is not easily accounted for. I therefore ask'd, whether this Lameness might not proceed from his falling on that Side; to which his Wife answered, she did not know of any Injury he had received there.

The Pain about the *Os Bregmatis*, of the opposite Side, did probably arise from a Contra-concussion of some of the Membranes, in like Manner as I have seen Contra-fissures of the *Cranium*, even in some where no

con-

considerable external Injury was to be perceived. The Nature of the Pain shew'd plainly that it was nervous, because it at Times relaxed him to such a Degree that he was lame all over, and could hardly move.

Although Costiveness of the Body may come from various Causes, yet in this Case it is probable that it was owing to the Disorder the Nerves of the *Mesenterium* laboured under; whether primarily from the Blow, or that the Action of the Nerves being vitiated, the Injury had extended itself gradually thus far, I will not pretend to determine. Certain it is, that Costiveness is a common Symptom when the nervous System is injured.

The Indication appeared in this Case to be, to evacuate the peccant Hu-

mors, that might be supposed to have lodged about the injured Parts; to stimulate and restore Activity to the Nerves, and lastly to brace them up. How these Intentions were answered, appears from the foregoing Method of Cure; which succeeded beyond Expectation.

A Case somewhat like this we find described in *Boerhaave's Consultations*, published lately, N^o. 50. in a young Lady who had fell from her Horse, but the Pain was on the same Side where she was hurt; which he directed to be cured by *Evacuations from the Head downwards*.

C A S E XVI.

Fits from external Hurt.

Lewis Harrison, ten Years of Age, a stout strong-made Boy, was struck by another in the right *Epigastrium*, about a Month before he came to the *Infirmary*, which was the 17th of *July*, 1741. upon which he fell down, and lay senseless and motionless some Time, and was so ill that he kept his Bed ten Days; during which Time he had Fits every Day, losing his Senses, struggling hard, and foaming at Mouth. His Belly is very hard, and costive; voids but little Urine, which is very high coloured.—These Sort of Fits have followed him pretty close ever since,

inſomuch that his Memory and Underſtanding ſeem to be impaired by them.

I ordered him to loſe a little Blood, a Calomel Pill over Night, and a Cathartic next Morning.

July 19. The Pill and Purge having agreed with him very well, he had the ſame again.

July 25. His Intellects ſeem to be much clearer and ſtronger, and the Fits better. As he complained of a gnawing Pain at Stomach, and ſudden ravenous Appetite, I ſuſpected there might be Worms in the Caſe, and therefore ordered him a Vermifuge Powder every Morning, which if there were none, would by its bitter Ingredients ſerve to brace up the Tone of the Stomach.

Aug.

Aug. 4. Complained still, though not so much, of his Stomach, and that he was costive; I therefore prescribed the *Elix. propr.* twice a Day, and Powder as before.

Aug. 24. Has had no Fits several Days. But as his Head was heavy and dizzy, ordered the preparative Pill and Purge again.

Sept. 9. These Symptoms being much abated since the last Physic, ordered the same again.

Sept. 14. Has had no Fits, his Intellects and Head quite well; complains again of the Gnawing at Stomach.—Prescribed the Vermifuge Powders as before.

Sept. 23. His Stomach better, but is a little costive, he had the *Elix. propr.* again, and the 29th of the same Month he came and returned
Thanks

Thanks to the Board for his Cure, being now perfectly well in every Respect.

I have seen the Boy several Times since, he continued in good Health, and is grown a lusty Lad.

It is evident from the Consequences, that the nervous System was injured by the Blow, but in what Part may be guessed at, but not determined.

I conceived the Hurt had occasioned like a Bruise an Echymosis upon or near some Nerve, which being thereby stimulated, occasioned those Spasms and other Complaints of the Head. Wherefore Evacuati-
ons seemed to be indicated to carry off the Load of peccant Humors, which succeeded accordingly ; and it must be obvious to every one, that

nervous Medicines would have availed nothing without Evacuations.

It did not appear that the Patient voided any Worms, and perhaps the uneasy Sensation at Stomach proceeded from Consent of the Parts injured.

I had not set down this Case whilst under Cure, but as I remembered some of the Circumstances, I sent for the Lad to refresh my Memory with the Rest.

I think the Case belongs to the Class of Epilepsies.

CASE

C A S E XVII.

Fits from external Hurt.

MARY Cundell, between sixteen and seventeen Years of Age, a well-grown, strong, and fresh-coloured young Woman, seven Years ago, being at Play, her Sister hit her Temple against a Stair-case, upon which she immediately fell into a Fit, laughing, crying, and struggling alternatively, which lasted about an Hour. After that, she generally had these sorts of Fits twice or thrice a Day. Then they left her for almost a whole Year, but within these four Months have returned, and are now worse than ever. She first perceives, when they are coming on, an Uneasiness

finess at Stomach, then a Dizziness in her Head, upon which she jumps up all at once at any Body, tearing about her like one mad, being insensible of what she doth, then falls a crying, laughing, or fainting, foams at Mouth, bites her Tongue, and often wounds it so, that she can hardly take any Sustenance for some Time after. She frequently struggles so hard, that several People cannot manage her, and when the Fits are over feels an intolerable Head-ach, Lowness and Faintness. Between whiles eats her Victuals very hearty; has never had her *Menses*.

Aug. 3, 1745. She had been blooded two Days ago. I ordered *Pil. aur. ij*, one to Night, the other to morrow Night, a Purge the Morning following, and a Paregoric Bolus

at Night. s And to take some of the
Tinct. fulig. cum Aff. between whiles
 when faint and low-spirited. s ll s qu

Aug. 9. Has had no Fits, is more
 brisk, her Head aches between whiles,
 but not so violently as formerly. —

Ordered her *Pil. Euphras.* every
 other Night, *Elix. Vin. Myns.* twice
 a Day, and a perpetual Blister to her
 Arm. Time after. She frequently faints.

Aug. 14. Had a slight Attack
 Yesterday, but no Fit. Head-ach bet-
 ter since the Blister. — The Pills and
 Drops as before. Lowness and Faintness.

Aug. 21. No Fits, complains of
 Pain of her Head, is swelled and sick
 at Stomach, faint and short-breathed.
 No *Menses*. Continued the same
 Medicines. Pit and one to Night.

Aug. 26. No Fits, is still swelled at
 Stomach, Appetite and Head-ach bet-
 ter. No *Menses* yet. Or-

Ordered *Tinct. Cathol. cum Tinct. Martis* Nights and Mornings, *Tinct. Stomach. Tinct. Helleb. nig. ana p. æq.* to be taken twice a Day in a Glas of fair Water an Hour before Dinner, and at six in the Evening, and *V. S. pedis.*

Sept. 2. About the Time of full Moon last, had several Attacks of Fits, but no Fits, kept her Senses; Swelling at Stomach better.—The same Medicines again.

Sept. 11. No Fits, is well in every Respect, but has not seen yet her *Menses*.—Went on as before.

Sept. 17. Is well, but no *Menses* yet.—Ordered to go on.

Sept. 24. No Fits, has seen a Shew of them.—Was desired to continue the Mixture and Drops a little longer.

Oct. 23. Has kept away so long, not wanting any more Medicines, being very well; has had her *Menses* in due Order.——However, I ordered some *Pil. fœt.* to be taken every other Night to confirm her Cure, and the *Elix. Vitr.* as before.

Oct. 30. Said she should have returned Thanks last Committee Day, thinking herself perfectly well, but that a Person having given her several severe Blows, she had fell down in a Fit, and wounded her Head.—Ordered her to be blooded, and to continue the last Prescription.

Nov. 22. Came with another Patient, not wanting any Medicines herself, being very well; has had her *Menstrua* very orderly, and not the least Symptom of Fits, since that from the Blows as above, though had

met with several Frights, which before would have occasioned them. Believes shall have no more, and designs to give Thanks next Board Day; which she did accordingly.

Here is another Example of Fits from external Injury. It is remarkable, that the Seeds of the old Disease that had lain dormant, shew'd themselves again about the Time of Puberty; that so soon as deobstruent Medicines were given her, the Symptoms of Obstruction manifested themselves more plainly; and that when she was made regular, she was also cured of her Fits.

C A S E XVIII.

Fits from a Blow on the Head.

E *Liz. Strickland*, about eighteen, of a sanguine Complexion; when six or seven Years old had a Blow given her in the Work-house on the right Side of the Head near the *Occiput*, which felled her down, and deprived her of her Senses for some Time. Since that has been troubled with Fits, which come on with a Rising from her Stomach, so that she is forced to swallow her Spittle as fast as possible for fear of being suffocated, then it gets up to her Head, and she falls down precipitately like dead, and comes to herself again in about three or four Minutes. Observes
a great

a great Forgetfulness after her Fits, so that if sent on an Errand, and has a Fit mean while, forgets what she was sent about. Has generally two or three of 'em a Day; any Fright, Vexation or Uneasiness brings them on.——Has had her *Menses* about one Year pretty regularly; since which has been worse of her Fits, and whilst they are upon her finds herself also rather more troubled with Fits.

June 12, 1745. Ordered her to be blooded, the *Pil. scæ.* every other Day, and *Elix. Vitr. Myns.* twice a Day.

June 19. Fits still as bad, is between whiles lightfomer, has a great Sourness at Stomach, Head very dizzy.——Ordered a Blister to her Neck, an Emetick, the *Fulep. Cre-tac.* and *Pil. scæ.* every other Night.

June 26. Missed her Fits one Day, which had never done before, had some since, but neither so long nor so strong. Still a great Sourness at Stomach. — Ordered *Pil. fæt.* as before, *Sp. C. C.* twice a Day, and the *Jul. Cretac.*

July 3. Missed her Fits one Day. Had them very bad Yesterday and the Day before (Moon full the 2d.) Ordered *Pil. fæt.* as before, *Tinct. fulig. cum Ass.* and a perpetual Blister upon the Arm, Sourness at Stomach gone.

July 17. Missed her Fits two Days, when they come are shorter and not so strong. Ordered *V. S.* to renew the Blister, which was almost dry, the Pills as before, and the *Elix. Vitr.* twice a Day.

Aug. 1. Had a strong Fit the 29th in the Morning in Bed, which made

it

it shake, but lasted only two Minutes. Had two yesterday, Water runs from her Mouth abundantly.—Had her Pills again, and to refresh her Spirits, which she complained were exceeding low, some *Spir. Lav. C.*

Aug. 14. Missed her Fits two Days. Had them again Yesterday, and to Day had two whilst waiting at the *Infirmary*; they last but a little while, she is not so ill after, and recovers her Senses sooner.—Was blooded again; and as I began to suspect the Disorder in her Stomach and Bowels, according to her Description, might perhaps proceed from Worms, I prescribed the *Elect. Helmint.* Nights and Mornings, and of the *Tinct. Helleb. nig. & Spir. Lav. C.* at eleven and five.

Sept. 5. Is better, her Fits often come and go in her Sleep, struggles hard, as her Mistress with whom she lies, tells her. The *Elect.* and Drops repeated.

Sept. 26. Had Fits in the Night very bad.——Ordered *Pil. Aur. ij*, then a Purge *Lac Ammon. & Aff. faet. ana p. æq.* a couple of Spoonful three or four Times a Day.

I did not see her again 'till the 22d of *October*, when she desired to give Thanks to the Board, saying she was almost well of her Fits, and believed they would wear away: However I urged her not to leave off her Medicines, accordingly for the next Day I ordered her an Emetic, two preparative Pills for two Nights following, after that a Cathartic, and the *Tinct. fulig. cum Aff.* three or four Times a Day, or when faint.

Nov.

Nov. 5. Had the preparative Pills and Cathartic again, was blooded, and *Tinct. fulig.* as before, was better.

Nov. 11. Had had no Fits several Days, thinks herself perfectly well. — Ordered by Way of Precaution, and to fortify her Nerves against any sudden Surprise, the *Lac Ammon.* & *Aff. fæt.* After that saw her no more, so conclude she continued well.

This Girl did not pursue her Medicines close enough, else, very probably, would have been cured much sooner.

The violent Concussion the Brain received from the Blow, was doubtless the Occasion of the Fits, which therefore may be rank'd in the epileptic Order: although afterwards they seemed to begin in the Stomach, the

Nerves of which had been so much debilitated that they gave the first Notice, as soon as the Disorder began to affect the Brain.

The Disorder at her Stomach, and violent Flux of *Saliva*, were greatly abated by the Use of the *Elect. Helmint.* But whether that was not rather owing to the Stomachic than the Vermifuge Ingredient, I cannot determine, because no Worms were perceived to come from her.

C A S E XIX.

Fits after a strong Purge.

A *NN Meers*, aged thirteen, of a low Stature, thin Habit, and pale Complexion, was about six Years ago, after a strong Cathartic,
taken

taken with a violent Convulsion Fit: after that her Fits were not so strong, but frequent, so that she often had two or three a Day; observed she was commonly worse about the Changes of the Moon. Is now frequently seized with great Pain at Stomach, which sometimes swells very much, and after it is troubled with Wind and Rumbling in the Bowels. Her Mouth is so full of Spittle that she is obliged to swallow it so fast that it almost choaks her, then her Head is seized with a *Stupor*, loses her Senses, faints away with Distortion of her Limbs, sometimes with, sometimes without Struggling, and in about a Quarter of an Hour recovers her Senses, but remains very weak and languid. Her Appetite very bad, is always sick at Stomach, and often brings

brings up her Victuals again, begins to lose Flesh, and Strength, and thinks herself in a Consumption.

Commenced an Out-patient the 27th of *March*, 1745. from which Time she had divers Doses of *Pil. fæt.* to take every other Night, and *El. Vitr. Myns.* twice a Day; but not pursuing her Cure closely, received little Benefit till the 10th of *June*, when she told me she had had no Fits three Weeks, Vomiting and Sickness at Stomach not so bad. Continued the same Medicines.

June 26. Had Fits the 22d, (two Days before the 1st Quarter of the Moon) not so long nor so strong. Swallowing of Spittle still very troublesome.—Ordered *Pil. Epilept.* to be taken three Times a Day, with some *El. Vitr.* and a Cathartic some Days after.

July

July 1. No Fits, Spittle not troublesome, is purely since the Purge.— Ordered the same again.

July 24. Observes has Fits every three Weeks, constantly, despairs of ever getting well. Had them last Week from *Monday 15*, to *Saturday 20*. yet cannot say they are so strong or long, (new Moon the 17th) has a gnawing Pain at Stomach before Eating, and is swelled.—Ordered *Elect. Helmintic*. Nights and Mornings, and *Elix. propr.* about Noon, and at five or six in the Afternoon.

Aug. 12. The Gnawing and Swelling at Stomach gone: Has had no Fits, is mended purely since last Medicines, which therefore were repeated.

Sept. 11. No Fits; Head-ach between whiles and giddy, Stomach pretty

pretty well.—Against the approaching Change of the Moon, ordered her a Vomit to Day, to be blooded to Morrow, a Purge the next Morning, and Paregoric at Night.

Sept. 17. Had Fits last *Wednesday* Night, and off and on till *Friday* Evening (new Moon on *Friday*) however they were but short and not strong, Stomach much better.—

Ordered an *Elect.* with *Limat. Stanni Conf. Ruthæ* and *Z. Z.* also *Elix. propr.* as before.

Sep. 27. Has had some Attacks of Fits, but no Fits. No Pain at all at Stomach.—Went on with the same Medicines.

Oct. 15. Was perfectly well, and returned Thanks. I told her if she should find herself uneasy on Account of the Want of her *Menses*, which hitherto

hitherto had not appeared, or have any Return of Fits, to apply again to the *Infirmary*; which she not having done to this Day, I conclude her to have received a perfect and lasting Cure.

As this Girl was cured with Helminthic Medicines chiefly, it is highly probable, as also from some of her Complaints, she had Worms; although she perceived none to come from her, as she said, which may be imputed to her Ignorance and Want of proper Observation.

Whether the first Fit was occasioned, by the violent Irritation from the Cathartic, or from the Worms being greatly disturbed by it, and clinging therefore close to the Membranes of the Intestines, which by drawing the

nervous System into Consent, brought on those universal Convulsions, I cannot determine.

I remember the Case of a young Lady of about seventeen, who had voided several Pieces of the Tape Worm. Two or three Hours after taking a moderate Dose of *Tinct. Sacr.* she was seized with a violent Pain in her Stomach and Bowels, after that fell into a Fit, and went from one into another 'till she died, which was but a few Hours after. She was blooded, blistered and vomited, but all to no Purpose. I wanted to have had her opened, but could not prevail upon the Parents. Might not this sudden Change be owing to Worms being disturbed by the disagreeable Medicine, and fastening so close to the Membranes as to occasion those violent Spasms, which

which at last caused a total Contraction, so as to hinder the animal Functions going on any longer?

That this is the Case in Children is evident. Their Fits happen so often from Worms, that two out of three are cured by a little Calomel purged off, and helmintic Medicines, as I have frequently experienced.

C A S E XX.

*Convulsions after a Fever and
Lamenefs.*

J O H N Dunstan, twelve Years of Age, was after a Fever afflicted with Convulsions in his Bowels, attended with most exquisite Pain, which lasted several Days. Upon this followed a *Diarrhœa*, which continued eight or nine Days, and
I left

left him about a fortnight ago. Since that he is feverish every Night, his Stomach is swelled hard and painful; his right Side pinched in, the Leg of that Side is grown shorter than the other by half an Inch, inclined to turn inwards and lame. He eats hearty, but gathers neither Flesh nor Strength, and seems to be in a Decline.

Aug. 30, 1745. As he look'd pale, was feeble and emaciated, I ordered him no Bleeding, but take of our *Tinct. Cathol.* Nights and Mornings to discharge the morbid Load from the Nerves, and a Mixture with some *Sal. C. C.* to open the nervous Obstructions, and to restore their Activity, to which a little *Laud. liq.* was added to still his Pains.

Sept.

Sept. 4. The Pain of his Side better, not so much pinched in, his Leg also better.—Had the same Medicines again.

Sept. 12. Side is well, the Leg as long as the other, and almost as strong, but complains of Pain and Weakness in his Back.

As I imagined this to proceed from a Shifting of the Disorder, and the Lad was grown hearty, I ordered him to be bled, some Calomel at Night to resolve the morbidic Humor, and to purge it off the next Morning, a Paregoric at Night, and some *Tinct. fulig. cum Ass.* three Times a Day.

Sept. 17. He returned Thanks, being perfectly well.

M

CASE

C A S E XXI.

Saint Vitus Dance, *and Lameness of the left Side.*

E *Liz. Chambers*, aged eleven Years and half, was about four Months ago seized on a sudden in the Evening with a working of her Eyes, left Hand and Leg, which increased daily, to such a Degree, that in fourteen Days after she lost the Use of her left Side intirely.

Dec. 23, 1745. I ordered her to be blooded, a Blister to her Back, she complaining of a great Disorder in her Head, and *Pil. fæt.* every other Night.

Dec. 30. Her Head being still very dizzy, had *Pil. fæt.* as before, and *Spir. C. C.* twice a Day.

Jan.

Jan. 13. Began to mend a little, therefore had the same Medicines again.

Janu. 20. Lameness much the same, Complaints of the Head better, has a great Sickness at Stomach, and hardly any Appetite. Ordered a perpetual Blister to the left Arm, *Pil. foet.* every other Night, and *Gum Ammon.* Mixture with a Bitter to strengthen the Tone of the Stomach as well as the Nerves, and a small Proportion of *Laud. liq.* to still its painful Sensation.

These Sorts of Medicines, with little Alteration, were continued till she was quite well, which by the by would have been sooner if she had given more diligent Attendance, and the 1st of *April* she returned Thanks for her Cure.

The *Saint Vitus Dance* generally terminates in a Palsy of the Limb affected; and this seems to have begun in the Head, from the Rolling of the Eyes, and the violent Disorder she felt there at first.

The Greatness of the Distemper shews itself, by its bringing on a *Hemiplegia*.

As the Lameness grew a little better, the Arm and Leg began to assume their former convulsive Motion again, the Influx of the animal Spirits being now readmitted, though yet irregularly, which before were excluded. And this also going off gradually, she was restored to her former State of Health again.

C A S E XXII.

Fits from Obstruction of the Menfes.

Rachel Long, eighteen Years of Age, had Fits a Year ago, occasioned, as was supposed, by the Stoppage of her *Menfes*; she having missed them about two Months. The *Menfes* having been procured her again, she was soon cured of her Fits, and continued well 'till about two Months ago, when they stopt again, since which Time has had her Fits again in the same Manner as formerly.—She first perceives a Sickness at Stomach and Giddiness, then falls a Screaming, Kicking and Stamping, beating herself, biting her Tongue and Lips, struggling so hard

that several People must hold her to prevent doing herself a Mischief, between whiles is sensible, and thus continues about half an Hour. After the Fits she is very faint and stupid; has had them lately about six in the Morning and six in the Evening. Has hardly any Appetite, *Alvus* regular, between the Fits pretty chearful.

July 17, 1745. Ordered *K. S. ped. Pil. Ecphract.* every other Night, and a Chalybeate bitter Tincture twice a Day.

July 26. Had Fits 'till the 22d, none since. Is sick at Stomach, after that has a Trembling.—Ordered an *Elect.* with *Cons. abs. Rom. Chalybs* & *Z. Z.* Nights and Mornings, and *Lac Ammon.* with some *Tinctura Stom. amar.* and a little *Laud. liq.*

July

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July 31. Has had no Fits. Head and Stomach very bad. No *Menses* yet.—Ordered as before.

Aug. 7. No Fits this Fortnight, Head and Appetite better, but no *Catamenia*.—Went on with the same Medicines.

Aug. 14. No Fits, nor *Menses*, is troubled with Shortness of Breath and Cough, and very uneasy at Stomach. Had the *Elect.* and Mixture again, and a pectoral *Linctus*, was blooded again, and a perpetual Blister to her Arm.

Aug. 21. Has had but one Fit these three Weeks, which was this Morning, but was neither so strong nor long as formerly, it lasted but one Quarter of an Hour. Thinks should be perfectly well if she had her *Menses*.—Ordered *Pil. Bellost.* every

M 4 other

other Day, and the Mixture of *G. Ammon. &c.* as above.

Sept. 5. Menstrua came down the 24th past tolerably well; took a great Walk last *Sunday*, since which has Eruptions all over, with great Heat and Itching.—Ordered *Pil. Bellost.* again, and as they had not moved her much, to take a little *Tinct. Jalap.* the Morning after them. Also the former Mixture again.

Oct. 2. No Fits, Eruptions still very troublesome, is faint and low-spirited between whiles.—Ordered *Æth. Min. Antim. Crud. & G. Guaj.* Nights and Mornings, with a Diet Drink, and *Tinct. fulig. cum Ass.*

Oct. 8. No Fits, Eruptions better. Went on as before. After this I saw her no more 'till the 5th of *Nov.* when she returned Thanks for her Cure, being perfectly well. In

In this Case the morbid Matter accumulated periodically, as it doth in Agues, and therefore the *Cortex* would have been indicated, if I had not been pretty clear, that all the Disorder was owing to the Obstruction of the *Menses*; which being removed, the Fits ceased.

The Mercurial Pills brought on the *Menses* at last. I have often observed, that Mercurials given between whiles, during the Course of Chalybeates, have a very good Effect, and add greatly to their Operation.

The long Walk she took heated her Blood so, that it threw out at the Surface a scorbutic Heat, which very probably depurated the Mass also of the Matter that occasioned the Fits, and thus far an Excess in one of the Non-naturals, was accidentally
the

the Occasion of her receiving a perfect Cure.

C A S E XXIII.

Fit from Suppression of the Menfes.

M*Ary Prettyman*, aged twenty three, of a tender Habit, had her *Menfes* but indifferently for about six Months last past, and the three last, but barely a Shew of them. About ten Weeks ago was taken with a great Working in her Bowels, Swelling at Stomach, after that grew hot and feverish, then had a Tremor all over, and fell into a Fit, crying and laughing alternatively, which lasted about three Hours. Has had at Times three or four of them in twenty four Hours, sometimes struggling hard, at
other

other Times not at all, which always left behind a Dizziness of the Head, total Languor, and Loss of Appetite.

May 8. She came into the *Infirmary*, and having then an Appearance of the *Menstrua*, I did not care to disturb Nature ; for which Reason I only ordered her to take three or four Times a Day some of the *Tinct. fulig. cum Ass.* in a Glass of Spring Water.

May 10. I prescribed Bleeding, *Episp. in Nuch. P. fœt.* every other Night, and to continue her Drops ; the *Menstrua* were now over.

May 15. The Blister discharged very well, was ordered to go on as before.

May 20. Her Fits were something abated, and she chusing to pursue the Cure as an Out-patient, was discharged.

charged. This Day being new Moon, I ordered her to be blooded, and finding the Pills had not purged her of late, but that she was costive, ordered her to take some of the Pills to Night, and a purging Draught to morrow Morning, and a Paregoric at Night.

May 22. The Cathartic had succeeded very well, and she thought herself much relieved by it. Was ordered to take of the *Pil. fœt.* every other Night, a larger Dose than before, the former not having kept her Body open, and the *Elix. Vitr.* twice a Day.

May 29. Complaining again that she was costive, I ordered her to take some of our *Elect. aper.* with the Pills to promote their Operation. The *Elix. Vitr.* as before; she thought

thought her Fits shorter, and not so strong.

June 7. Her Head being very dizzy, ordered another Blister, and the Pills, Electuary and Drops as before. Had missed her Fits several Days, but the 5th had one before she got out of Bed, laughing and crying, but not so strong, nor was she so faint and low after.—Had had her *Menses* duly as to Quantity and Quality.

June 14. Had no Fits these last ten Days, whereas she generally used to have two or more in a Week. Her Stomach and Head still affected, tho' not quite so bad. The Pills, Electuary and Drops were continued.

June 24. Was well, made no Complaints but of Weakness and Lowness. I ordered the Pills and Drops to be
con-

continued, and directed a purging Draught to be taken in Case of Costiveness.

June 25. She returned Thanks to the Board for her Cure.

This Case is properly hysterick, as the Fits without Doubt proceeded from a Want of the menstrual Discharge; which left a Load upon the uterine Nerves, and by Consent involved the whole nervous System into those general Spasms. The Event plainly justifies this Reasoning; for as soon as the *Menses* shew'd themselves in due Quality and Quantity, the Fits, and all the attendant Symptoms disappeared.

CASE

C A S E XXIV.

Fits after Delivery of a dead Child.

E *Leonor Smith*, aged forty five, of a robust Habit, about nine Years ago had Fits, the same Sort with those she now labours under; she was cured of them, and remained well several Years.——About two Years since, fourteen Days after she had been delivered of a dead Child, her Purgations going on very well, she was seized in the Night with a great Pain in the Small of her Back, which soon moved into her Stomach, afterwards had a Choaking in her Throat, then a *Vertigo*; from the Head the Pain returned back again into her Stomach and Bowels, after

after that lost her Senses, and lay like a dead Corpse, and sometimes struggled.

During the Fit her Mouth is so full of Water that she seems almost choak'd with it; when over, she trembles every Limb, reaches to vomit, and remains stupid for two or three Hours. Afterwards is brisk, but is frequently troubled with Faintings and great Noise in her Head.

These sort of Fits follow her now very close, they generally attack her about four in the Morning in Bed.

She has her *Menses* still regularly, but not so much in Quantity as formerly.

This being the critical Time of the *Menses* going off, when Evacuations are very proper, I ordered her the the 14th of *Aug.* 1745. to loose some
Blood,

Blood, a preparative Pill two Nights following, and a Purge the Morning after. Then *Elix. Vitr. Myns* twice a Day for a few Days.

Aug. 21. Had the preparative Pills and Purge again, they having operated and agreed very well. Also *Lac Ammon. cum Tinct. fulig.* & parv. quant. *Laud. liq.* to be used twice a Day.

Sept. 5. Finds herself better, but being pretty much weakned by the brisk Purges, I ordered her *Pil. fæt.* every other Night, and the *Elix. Vit.* twice a Day to brace up.

Sept. 18. Fits better, but Fainting and Colic Pain very bad. Ordered a paregoric Pill every Night, *Pil. fœt.* and the *Elix. Vitr.* as before.

After this she stay'd away 'till the
15th of Oct. which I chid her for,
N having

having lately rather gone back than advanced, as in all Probability she would not have done, if she had pursued her Medicines, which had been of Service to her.—Has had some slight Returns of her Fits, which she said, the latter End of *Sept.* had quite left her; but Fainting and Colic better. As I perceived some Eruptions upon her, I ordered the *Pulv. alter. cum Guaj.* twice a Day, and the Decoction of the Woods for her common Drink.

From this Time I saw her no more 'till the 15th of *November*, when she came and returned Thanks to the Board for her Cure.

This Case gives a true Representation of an hystERIC Fit, and has nothing extraordinary but that the Fit
returns

return'd in the Morning at a certain Hour, which Circumstance has been taken Notice of already.

It is probable this Woman would have been cured much sooner had she attended closely, and pursued her Medicines without Intermission. But this is a common Fault amongst the Poor, who when better stay away, to see whether their Amendment will continue so ; mean while, if the Seeds of the Distemper are not sufficiently eradicated, they shew themselves again with Vigor, and we are obliged to begin the whole Course of Medicines over again. On the other Hand, if the Cure stands good, few take the Trouble of shewing themselves to their Benefactors with Gratitude, and by that Means we lose the Satisfaction of seeing many Cures, which

might furnish us with useful Observations.——As towards the latter End of her Cure, there was a considerable Appearance of Eruptions upon her Skin, which I have observed has happened to others under the like Circumstances, the *Pulv. alter. cum Guaj.* which sheaths, and gently evacuates the acrimonious Particles at the same Time, compleated all our Intentions.

C A S E XXV.

Fits from Worms.

G Eorge Hibbert, a lusty and strong Boy, two Years old, was brought to the *Infirmary* the 2d of *Aug.* 1745. His Mother told me the Child often complained of Pain in his
Belly,

Belly, where she could feel a great Working, after which he screamed out and had Fits. He was generally costive, but when he had Stools they were loose, and several running, attended with a griping Pain.

Suspecting that a crude undigested *Saburra* in the Bowels, or Worms, occasioned these Complaints, I ordered one half of our *Pil. aur.* to be taken at Night, and to be purged off the next Morning with some of the *Pulv. Rad. jalap.* and a little *Conf. Mitbrid.* the Night after the Purge; and in Case of Faintness to give him a few Drops of the *Tinct. fulig. cum Ass.*

Aug. 5. The Medicines had operated very well, and the Child seemed to be much relieved, I therefore ordered the same to be repeated. The Mother had perceived no Worms in

his Stools, which I had directed her to observe.

After this he had the same kind of Medicines twice more, and was perfectly freed from his inward and outward Fits.

If the Child had voided any Thing like Worms, I should have given antihelminthic Medicines between the Purges, but as none appeared, and he grew better, I confined the whole Cure to this plain Method, which the Practitioner will find successful, provided the Remedies are applied with Judgment. What would the *Pulv. Bezoard. ad Guttet. Cast. Aff. fœt.* Blisters, &c. have availed, when, as is common in Children, the Cure depended upon Evacuations? Even in Fevers attended with Convulsions, when there is any Reason to suspect
either

either Worms or Crudities in the *primæ viæ*, this Method will do ; and the low State of the Child should be no Objection, for I have frequently seen Children emaciated to the last Degree, and very faint and low, who presently after seemed to be revived beyond Expression, and soon grew strong and fleshy.

I could soon produce many Instances of this Kind, were I to look over our Books, or recollect Cases from private Practice. But this Matter has from Experience latterly appeared so plain to me, that I neglected making a Collection of this Kind. If it should admit of any Doubt, I shall easily be enabled to insert many such Cases, if the Public should want a second Edition of this Treatise.

C A S E XXVI.

Fits from Worms.

JOHN Macloud, five Years old, a lusty well-grown Boy, of a healthy Complexion, was five Weeks ago seized with a Fit, went to Bed very well, and had never had any Fit before; he waked out of his first Sleep screaming, raving and tearing, foaming at his Mouth, losing his Senses for about one Quarter of an Hour, then came gradually to himself, seemed to be in a great Agony, calling for his Sister to help him, &c. presently after the Fit called out for the Pot, and made a great deal of Water.

He has had one or two of these Fits a Week ever since; when they
come

come on he thinks there are Needles and Pins pricking in his Belly, and bids his Mother look at his Belly to ease him; they always come at Nights in Bed,—He otherwise sleeps well, eats and drinks hearty, is brisk in the Day Time, and goes to School, plays about, &c. is generally costive, makes Urine well, and makes no Complaints of his Head.

Judging that this Child's Fits proceeded from Worms or Crudities in the first Passages, I ordered the 12th of July, 1745. some *Pulv. Rheicum fl. Sulph.* to be taken every other Night, and *Elix. propriet.* twice a Day the intermediate Days.

July 17. Was better. Had had but one Fit, which his Mother said had not been so long nor strong as formerly, and was not accompanied with

with so much Pain.—I ordered the same Medicines again.

As I saw the Child no more after that, I cannot say positively he was cured, though it is reasonable to suppose, that as he was so much mended by the first Medicines, the second Course did compleat the Cure, and that in Case of the Contrary the Mother would have applied for more.

This ungrateful Way of Behaviour is so common among the Vulgar, that if we have *Jesus Christ's* Proportion, viz. one in ten to give Thanks, we think ourselves well served.

CASE

C A S E XXVII.

Epileptic Fits from Worms.

F RANCES Vickery, thirty six Years of Age, of a robust Habit, came to the *Infirmary* the 21st of *April*, 1746. About ten Weeks ago was waked out of her Sleep with a great Pain in the left Side of her Neck, soon after that felt a Working in her Head, then lost her Senses, and she was told her Neck was so distorted to the left Side, that they could not put it to rights with all their Force, and thought she would be suffocated, for she foamed at Mouth, look'd black in the Face, and her Body and Limbs lay extended like one dead. Since that Time has had several of these
Fits,

Fits, when they come on she thinks she sees nothing but Fire and Glafs, and all kind of luminous Objects before her Eyes, and at their going off, voids Urine involuntarily.

I ordered her to be blooded in the *Jugular*, as she complained of a Dizziness and Numbness in her Head, a preparative Pill of Calomel, and *Sulph. aur. Antimon.* two Nights following, the next Morning a Cathartic, and a Paregoric at Night, and *Spir. C. C.* to be taken frequently.

May 2. She told me that the Day she took her Physick, she voided one Piece of a joint Worm a Yard and an half long, and another three Quarters of a Yard long, and that she found herself abundantly relieved, had a Fit, but a slight one, and was not so ill after as formerly.—I asked
I whether

whether she had been troubled with Costiveness, or Looseness, short, or stinking Breath, Voracity, Thirst, Nausea, Vomiting, Pain at Stomach, inflated Belly, &c. She had perceived none of those Complaints neither before the Fits nor after, and had her *Menses* regularly.

I must own, that when I prescribed for her, I did not imagine these Fits were owing to Worms, but as she had evacuated so large a Portion of the Tape Worm, I ordered her to go on with the same Medicines.——I remember a Servant, in a Family where I was employed, had some Years ago many strange hysteric Complaints, with Swelling of the Legs, and an intolerable *Cephalalgia*, after she had taken Loads of nervous Medicines, had been blooded, blistered,

blistered, &c. I ordered helmintic Medicines, which expelled large Portions of the *Lumbricus fascialis*, one Piece she measured and found it near nine Yards long, which Course being pursued some Time, she recovered a pretty good State of Health.—

About the same Time a Woman in *Spittle-fields*, complaining of a Shortness of Breath, Thirst, Swelling of the *Abdomen*, Thighs and Legs, was costive, made but little Urine, had a quick small Pulse, and had not seen her *Menses* several Months; which as she was but thirty five and not pregnant, was thought to be the Occasion of her having the Dropsy.—Deobstruent, aperient, diuretic, hydragogue, &c. Medicines were given her without Success.—At last the good Woman said she observed her Belly

not

not equally swelled, but hard Lumps in some Places, for which Fomentations were ordered twice a Day, to dispel if Flatules in the Intestines, or to resolve if Tumors in the Integuments or *Omentum*, which could not well be distinguished as the Woman was extremely emaciated, and the *Abdomen* distended as hard as a Drum.

—The Tension being a little abated, I imagined a purgative Medicine, of which many had been given before in vain, might be of Service, either to expel the Flatules, or to evacuate some of the resolved Matter. Wherefore a little *Calomel* was given over Night, and purged off next Morning with an aloetic Medicine, which had so good an Effect that she voided Abundance of Dregs resembling the Joints of the solitary Worm decay'd; which

which gave her great Ease, and lessened the Tumors.

○ The Process was repeated with equal Success so long 'till all the Tumors were gone. After that the Swelling of the *Abdomen* went off gradually, also that of the Thighs and Legs, and all the other Symptoms disappeared by Degrees, and she recovered a good State of Health, which she has enjoyed almost without Interruption these seven or eight Years. She voided of that vermicular Stuff, as near as might be guessed at, three or four Pounds.

As to *Frances Vickary*, I saw her no more after the second Prescription; and as she had voided Pieces of the Tape Worm by Means of the first Physic, and was better of her Fits, there is strong Reason to presume,

fume, the second expelled the Remainder of the Worm, and made her quite easy.

C A S E XXVIII.

Fits from Vexation and Fright.

JANE Arbutnot, nineteen Years old, fresh coloured, and of a pretty strong Habit: from Vexation and Fright had about six Months ago her first Fit. She first perceived a Sickness at Stomach, then Rising in the Throat, Swimming of the Head, so that she could not stand, Staring of the Eyes, then fell down suddenly; Struggling hard, rolling her Eyes, foaming at Mouth, biting her Tongue, Lips, Hands, or any Thing else she
O could

could lay hold of; growing black in the Face, and remaining senseless for half an Hour after the Fit. She generally has a profuse *Hæmorrhagy* at Nose when the Fit is over, so that they have thought sometimes she would bleed to Death, which Bleeding she has been subject to these nine Years.

She generally had two or three Fits a Week, her *Menstrua* have been regular, but sparing and very pale these ten Months last past; about that Time and the Change of the Moon is always worse.

At present complains also of an Uneasiness and Swelling of the Stomach and Legs, her Appetite is good, *Alvus* regular, Urine commonly thick and red, and has almost a constant Dizziness of the Head. — July 3, 1745.

I or-

I ordered her to lose eight Ounces of Blood, a *Calomel* Pill at Night, the purging Salts next Morning, afterwards the *Pil. fæt.* every other Day, and the *Elix. Vittr.* the intermediate Days, and a Blister upon her Back.

July 12. Has had her Fits as long and strong as before, but not so often, no Bleeding at Nose since. Dizziness and Pain at Stomach very troublesome. — The Blister on her Back being almost dried up, I ordered a perpetual one on the left Arm, to continue the *Pil. fæt.* as before, and to make frequently use of the following Mixture, composed of *Sp. C. C. Tinct. Stom. amar.* and a little *Laud. liq.*

July 19. Has not her Fits so often, nor so long, nor struggles so

O 2 hard.

hard. Giddiness better, Pain at Stomach easier, though still swelled between whiles. Has had her *Menses*, which are still sparing and pale.— Ordered to go on with the last Medicines.

Since that I have seen her no more, but it is reasonable to suppose, that as she was so much relieved by this Method, she was either cured by the last Medicines, or would have been so if she had pursued them longer.

This Case shews some Symptoms of hysteric Fits, but the falling down suddenly, Foaming at Mouth, and remaining senseless so long after, makes it plain that the Disease was chiefly seated in the Brain, and that therefore these Fits partake of the Nature of an Epilepsy.

The

The profuse Bleedings at Nose had so impoverished her Blood, that her *Menses* were sparing and pale coloured, and the Legs affected with œdematous Swellings; and in all Probability she would soon have fell into a compleat Dropsy.

How far this *Hæmorrhagy* might be accessory to the bringing on the Fits, I will not pretend to determine, although the Spasms that happen after great Effusions of Blood might furnish some Foundation to establish this Theory upon. But my Intention is to inform the Reader of Facts, and not to amuse him with fine-spun speculative Notions.

C A S E XXIX.

Fits from Grief and Trouble.

A *NN Knowles*, thirty Years of Age, of a robust Habit and healthy Complexion, about six Years ago, through Trouble fell into an hysterical Disorder, which she has been subject to ever since, the least Vexation or Surprise bringing it on. She is seized with a Sickness at Stomach, Fainting, Rising in her Throat, and Dizziness, then falls down, screaming sometimes violently, sometimes crying, which eases her most; but is often so fatigued after the Fit is over, that she is obliged to keep her Bed a Fortnight or three Weeks. She is worse Spring and Fall, than in Summer

Summer and Winter, and is generally ill about the Changes of the Moon. Has had her *Menses* at regular Periods, but too abundant, they lasting sometimes three Weeks, and at those Times she is worse. She has been blooded, but finds herself rather worse after it. She often feels a great Gnawing at her Stomach, and is quite ravenous for Victuals, but feels a great Uneasiness after Eating; is not costive, and voids a great Quantity of pale Urine.

June 3, 1745. I ordered an Epispastic to the Neck, the *Pil. fæt.* to take every other Night, and the *Elix. Vitr.* twice a Day.

June 17. Has now been several Days without Fits, is yet sick and faint between whiles, but not to such a Degree. Can now do some Work,

and go about her Business, which she was not able to do before.

I ordered the former Medicines to be continued.

June 24. No Fits, is better of the Complaint at her Stomach, and finds herself stronger every Day, but troubled with great Sighings and Rising in her Throat.

I ordered her to go on with the first Medicines, and to take some of the *Tinct. fulig. cum Ass.* between whiles.

July 1. Had Fits on a sudden the 29th, but not so strong, neither lasted they so long as formerly. Her *Menses* came on Yesterday, and the Moon changes to morrow, at which Times, as before observed, she is always worse. As she said, she had received great Benefit from the former Medicines,

dicines, and begged to have them again, I agreed to have them repeated.

July 29. Has had no Fits since she was with me last ; and finding herself perfectly well, desires to return Thanks for her Cure ; however to confirm it, I ordered her a Quantity of the *Pil. fæt.* and *Elix. Vitr.* and bid her call on me in Case she had any Return of Fits.

C A S E XXX.

Fits from Fright.

S *Arab Goodman*, about eighteen, of a pale Complexion, when five Years old was frightened into a Convulsion Fit, which lasted two Hours ; after that she had one every Day during a whole Week, since that has not had 'em so often. She

She is now taken sometimes in the Street, the Notice she has, is a violent Pain in her left Side below the Ribs, or a Swimming in her Head, upon which she falls down suddenly like dead, then struggles so hard that three or four can scarcely hold her.—The Pain of her Side has within these three Months been constantly troublesome.

She has had her *Menses* regularly one Year, when they are upon her is always worse, as also at the new and full of the Moon. Her appetite is generally good, but after the Fits some Time bad with Sicknefs at Stomach, and great Lassitude, which lasts several Days.—Any Fright or Vexation brings them on.

June 12, 1745. I ordered her the *Tinct. Cathol.* Nights and Mornings,
and

and the *Tinct. fulig. cum Ass.* twice or oftner a Day. *Episp. perpet. Brach. intern. supra Cubit.*

June 18. Has had no Fits since the 11th, Pain of her Side not quite so bad. Ordered to go on with the former Medicines.

June 26. Complained the Medicines were too strong for her Stomach, and that she brought them up. Had Fits the 22d, (first Quarter of the Moon the 24th) yet very strong, but observed they did not come so often.

I ordered a mercurial preparative Pill at Night, a Cathartic the next Morning, and a Paregoric at Night, also the *Lac Ammon. cum Tinct. fulig.* to be used frequently.

July 9. Had a Fit the first, which was but short and not so strong (the Moon at full the 2d) and none since,
is

is well in every Respect, and being obliged to go to Service, and her Mistress having denied her coming for her Medicines to the *Infirmary* for the future, she returned Thanks to the Board, and I ordered her a Quantity of the *Pil. fœt.* and *Elix. Vitr. Myns.* to compleat her Cure.

As the Fits in these two last Cases arise from the same Cause, so they are also very similar in their Effect. Both Patients are sensible of the Changes of the Moon, and worse at the Time of the *Menses*. The first perhaps by Reason of the too great Loss of Blood; the other by the Commotion in the hysteric Nerves about the Period of Menstruation.

Their Fits are brought on only by Fright, Vexation, &c. however the
Case

Case of the last is worse, in as much as they are by Length of Time become habitual; and as she was not released from them at the Age of Puberty, were now almost grown epileptic, and in Process of Time, according to all Appearance, would have become truly so. For some Time she had no Notice, but a *Vertigo*, upon which she fell down suddenly, though at other Times the Scene began by a violent Pain in the Side, which Irritation was soon communicated to the *Cerebrum*, and thence the Mischief was diffused all over the nervous System.

The Gnawing at Stomach, *Ann Knowles* complain'd of, not being accompanied by other Worm Symptoms, I judged it to proceed from a sharp Liquid in the Stomach, encouraging

raging it to receive more Aliments than its Tone could dispense with, and for this Reason made Use of no helmintic Medicines.

C A S E XXXI.

Fits from Fretting.

E *Leonor Simkins*, aged thirty five, was delivered of a Child about three Months ago, had her Cleanfings in due Order, and was well after it. The Child died at the Age of seven Weeks, and soon after that she was taken with fainting Fits, which she attributed to Fretting, on Account of her bad Circumstances.

They came on with a Sicknefs and Pain at Stomach, then she felt a Rising in her Throat fit to choak her, after

after that a Dizziness, fell down suddenly, and lay like one dead for about a Quarter of an Hour, without Struggling, but with total Loss of all her Senses.

Imagining that this poor Woman's Illness might arise either from the proper Evacuations not being made after the Loss of her Child to carry off the Milk ; or that Grief, by relaxing the solids and emunctory Vessels, had brought on a Load upon the Nerves, occasioning these Syncopes :

I therefore ordered her the 24th of *Aug.* 1745. a Blister to her Back, the *Pil. fæt.* every other Night, and the *Elix. Vitæ. Myns.* twice a Day.

Aug. 30. She was greatly relieved, found herself in pretty good Spirits and lightsome. As the Medicines had agreed very well, I ordered them to be continued.

Sept.

Sept. 3. She said she was perfectly well, and desired to give Thanks to the Board. — However for fear of a Relapse, I ordered her to take some of these Medicines with her, and to continue using them a little longer.

C A S E XXXII.

Fits from Fretting and Surprise.

E *Liz. Savage*, thirty four Years old; about four Months ago, a Week after Delivery, was taken with Sicknefs, Fainting, and Dizziness; after which ensued struggling Fits, with Loss of Senses, in which she continued, with but little Interval between, the whole Night. She had been fretting on Account of her Poverty, and met with a great Surprise, which

which was the immediate Occasion of the Fits coming on.—From that Time she had them frequently, generally in the Night, and observes that she is worse about the Changes of the Moon. She has her *Menses* regularly, and is commonly ill about that Time. Is costive, her Urine sometimes like Whey, then clear or cloudy.

April 8, 1745. As she was very low and weak, it being at the Time of the *Menses*, I did not advise Bleeding; but ordered *Pil. fæt.* every other Night, and the *Elix. Vitr. Myns.* twice a Day.

In this Method we went on 'till the 24th, when she had missed her Fits several Days, and had better Spirits; but a new Complaint had appeared, which was, that she made but

P

little

little Urine, had a Pain in the Small of her Back, and her *Abdomen* began to swell.—I ordered the aperient *Elect.* to be taken Nights and Mornings, to keep the Body open, and the *Tinct. diuret. N.* twice a Day in Barley Water.

These Medicines were continued till the 3d of *June*, when the last Symptoms were totally removed; during that Time she had but two Fits, *viz.* on the 27th of *April*, the Day of the first Quarter of the Moon, and the 25th of *May*, two Days before the first Quarter.—I now repeated the *Pil. fæt.* again, and ordered *Spir. C. C. cum Tinct. fulig. ana p. æq.* to be taken frequently.

June 24. Has had no Fits since the 25th of *May*, and as she has missed them through all the Changes
 1 of

of the Moon, thinks herself well in that Respect ; but they have impaired her Memory very much, and her Head is weak and generally dizzy.

I now ventured to have her blood-
ed, by which she found present Re-
lief, a Blister in the Neck, and the
Pil. fœt. and *Spir. C. C. cum Tinct.*
fulig. cum Ass. as before.

July 3. Her Memory better, and
her Head well, but complains of a
Pain in her back, and a little Dif-
ficulty of Urine.—She had the *Tinct.*
diur. N. to be taken three Times a
Day, in warm Barley Water.

July 23. Was well in every Re-
spect, and gave Thanks to the Board
of the Committee for her Cure.

It is very likely, this poor Woman
by Fretting had prevented Nature
P 2 from

from exonerating herself by the natural Discharges, which leaving a Load upon the Nerves, occasioned the Complaints she laboured under. She is ill about the Time of the *Menses*, as most weakly Constitutions are, either from the Commotion in the Fluids, or the Loss of Blood. Her Costiveness is accounted for elsewhere, and the Variety of Urine may be attributed to the Fluctuation in a tottering Constitution, which sometimes concocts it a little, then not at all, or even transmits some of the very Chyle itself.

When she grew better of her Fits, the morbid Matter seemed to be deposited upon the urinary Passages, which before were unmolested. This is a Symptom not uncommon in these Disorders, which if it doth not give
Way

Way to the other Medicines, should be treated as if there were really Gravel or Stone in the Case, though there is neither, and by which Means this Woman's Cure was compleated.

C A S E XXXIII.

Fits from a Fright.

Mary Allen, aged seventeen, of a sanguine Complexion, and healthy Aspect, was about three Years ago seized after a Fright, with Sickness at Stomach, Dizziness of the Head, Starting of the Arms, and then fainted away, and lay like one dead about one Hour and half. She has the Startings of her Arms every Day, after getting out of Bed in the Morning and towards Evening;

her Fits not so often, but any Fright or Surprise brings them on. Complains of a bad Digestion; has had her *Menses* regularly these two Years, at that Time finds no Alteration in Regard to the hysteric Complaint, but observes that Bleeding generally relieves her. Her *Alvus* regular, Urine generally pale.

Apr. 17, 1745. Ordered *V. S. Pil. fœt.* every other Night, and *Elix. Vitr. Myns.* twice a Day.

Apr. 22. Found some Ease after Bleeding, but the Starting still very bad.—Ordered the Pills again, and a Mixture of *G. Ammon. Tinct. fulig. cum Ass.* and a little *Laud. liq.* to be used frequently.

May 6. Has had several Fits, Starting a little better, complains of a great Pain and Weight in her Head.

Ordered

Ordered to go on with the Pills, a Mixture with *Sal. C. C.* and a small Quantity of *Laud. liq.* to be taken three or four Times a Day, and a Blister to her Neck.

May 20. Head somewhat better, Fits and Startings still very bad. As she had been costive several Days, ordered her a Purge, and afterwards *Pil. Epilept.* to be taken three Times a Day, with the *Elix. Vitr.*

June 7. Finds but little Amendment, her Stomach being puffed up, has missed her *Menses*.—Ordered *Tinct. Cathol.* Nights and Mornings, *Tinct. fulig. cum Ass.* and a perpetual Blister on the left Arm.

June 17. Head better since the Blister, has never been so long free from her Fits and Startings as since the last Prescription, but is still low

and faint. As the *Tinct. Cathol.* had not kept her Body open, I added some *Tinct. jalap.* to it, and bid her take of the *Tinct. fulig. cum Ass.* twice or oftner a Day.

June 24. No Fits, but Starting, and Head very bad, also complains of a bad Digestion.—As she still was inclined to be costive, ordered *Pil. fæt.* every other Night, and some *Tinct. jalap.* the Morning after, also *Elix. Vitr. V. S. pedis*, and a Blister in the Neck.

July 9. No Fits, Starting very bad to Day, (full Moon to Morrow. Observes is generally worse about that Time.)—As the Startings returned Mornings and Evenings at a certain Hour, I thought to try the *Cortex*, to which added some *Steel Rad. Valer. Cast.* and *Z. Z.*

July

July 15. Had a Fit the 12th, a very bad one, Starting rather worse. This was no Incouragement to go on with the Bark. Being heated and short breath'd, ordered again *V. S. pedis*, a Calomel Pill at Night, and a Purge next Day.—The *Elect. aperiens* to keep her Body open, and *Lac Ammon. cum Tinct. fulig.* three Times a Day.

July 17. No Fits, Starting better. To take three Times a Day of the *Lac Ammon. cum Tinct. fulig.*

July 22. No Fit, Starting worse again.—A Calomel Pill at Night, a Cathartic next Morning, a Purgoric at Night, and *Tinct. Visc. querc.* three times a Day.

July 27. No Fits, Starting better, Stomach easier.—Had the last Medicines again. Took a little Blood

from the Arm, which was very dark coloured, with too small a Proportion of *Serum*.

Aug. 5. Had missed her Startings three Days, but were returned again, with Sinking of her Spirits — Ordered a Calomel Pill, the Cathartic, and Paregoric as before, and *Lac Ammon. cum Tinct. fulig.*

Aug. 14. No Fits these fourteen Days, Starting very little; on Account of the Want of her *Menses*, complains of Shortness of Breath, Pain of the Head, and under the left Ribs. — Ordered *V. S. ped. Pil. Ecphract.* every other Night, and *Elix. Vit.* twice a Day.

Aug. 26. No Fits, Starting not so bad, complains of Sickness and Swelling at Stomach; no *Menses*. — *Pil. Ecphr.* as before, a Mixture of *Tinct. Helleb.*

Helleb. nig. Mart. Mynf. & Spir.
Lav. C. to be taken twice a Day in
 warm Water or Mint Tea.

Aug. 30. No Fits; Pain of the
 Head and Side very bad, also very
 sick at Stomach.—No *Menses*.

Ordered *Mixt. Cathol.* with some
Tinct. Martis Nights and Mornings,
 also the last Drops again.

Sept. 2. Had Fits the 31st of *Aug.*
 (Moon full the Day before) and Start-
 ing very bad, at the same Time the
Menses came down in due Manner;
 finds herself in a fine Way since.—
 Had *Pil. Stom. c. Gumm.* to take
 Nights and Mornings for the Uneasi-
 ness at Stomach.—This being pretty
 well removed, after some Days, but
 the Pain below the *Costæ* still trou-
 blefome, ordered *Æth. min.* and
Crud. Antim. twice a Day, with
Decoct.

Decoct. Lign. which compleated the Cure, and the 15th of *Octob.* after this tedious Proceſs ſhe came to return Thanks to the Board.

In this Caſe ſeveral Things deſerve our Notice. And

1. That if ſhe had not had Advice and Medicines gratis, it is probable ſhe would not have gone on with me ſo long, but left me under the Notion that I could not cure her.

2. Her Fits were periodical, for which I tried the *Cortex*, but with none, or rather a bad Effect.

3. She had her *Menſes* well at firſt ſetting out, but in the Purſuit of her Cure loſt them, and when ſhe was near being cured they appeared again. This Shifting of the morbid Matter I have obſerved alſo in others. As
the

the Obstruction could not proceed from the nervous and opening Medicines, it may perhaps be that the morbid Matter, which occasioned the Fits, being disturbed, shifted about, and fell upon the *Uterus*, and brought on this Disorder. In which Opinion I am confirmed from what happened in regard to the muscular Pain on the left Side. After the Fits, Tremor, &c. had been well handled and abated with various Medicines, this Pain appeared; and at last, when all other Complaints were quite removed, it was cured with an antiscorbutic Medicine.

CASE

C A S E XXXIV.

Hysteric Fits from a Fright.

E *Sther Dyer*, aged about thirteen, three Years ago thought she saw the Apparition of her Father before their Door, who was then but lately dead, upon which great Fright and Surprize she felt a Sicknefs at Stomach, Chillinefs all over, Dizziness of the Head; and a little farther, being then going to *St. Magnus's* Free-School, fell suddenly down in the Street, shrieking, struggling, laughing between whiles, biting her Lips, Tongue, and every Thing she could come at.

These sorts of Fits she has had ever since almost every Day, or every other

other Day at farthest, they lasting sometimes two Hours, the shortest half an Hour.

She had been six Months in a Hospital, where she was frequently strapt down in her Bed on account of her Fits: From whence, finding herself better, she went home and to the Free-School again, but was soon turn'd out, her Fits returning so bad, that the other Children were terrified at it.

After that she came into the *London Infirmary*, the 9th of *Oct.* 1744. I ordered her to be blooded, a Blister in her Neck, a Dose of the *Pil. Ruff.* every other Night, and a Bolus of *Mithrid.* with some *Castor* the Night after the Purge, and the *Elix. Vitr. Myns.* twice a Day.

Oct.

Oct. 12. She had *Pil. fæt.* to take every other Night, the Bolus as before, and the *Elix. Vitr.* twice a Day, being greatly relieved already.

Oct. 18. Her Fits being considerably diminished, and the Medicines agreeing very well with her, I ordered them to be continued.

Oct. 23. As she went on mending, I did not alter her Medicines. The Blister was now dried up.

Oct. 29. Had no Fits several Days, was grown strong and brisk, but as she complained of a little Dizziness, I ordered her to lose some Blood from the jugular Vein, which removed that Complaint, and to confirm her Cure to go on some Time with the *Pil. fæt.* and *Elix. Vitr.* as before. That Day she returned Thanks to the Board, and was dismissed.

Never

Never Cure went on more successfully, and beyond my Expectation was performed in a very short Time. The *Pil. fæt.* purged her very kindly, which rather raised than depressed her Spirits, as commonly happens in nervous Cases from great Evacuations, and the *Elix. Vitr.* had all the desired Effect possible, bracing up her Stomach, and the whole nervous System, so that she soon recovered her Appetite, which at first was very languid, and grew brisker visibly every Day.

This Instance is a singular Proof, that Evacuations, and bracing up at the same Time, are the chief Intentions in the Cure of Fits.

The Beginning of *July*, 1745. being told she sold Fruit with her

Q

Mother

Mother near *Fishmonger's Hall*, I sent for her to know whether she had had any Fits since she went from the *Infirmary*. The 3d of *July* she came, and said she had had but one since, and that was four Months ago, complains can't eat much, is weak and heavy to sleep. Is generally costive, her Urine very high coloured.

I ordered *V. S.* a Blister to her Neck, *Pil. fæt.* every other Night, and *El. Vitr. Myns.* twice a Day.

July 24. Had a Fit Yesterday, but has a better Appetite, and is not so heavy to sleep.—Went on with the Pills and Drops.

July 31. Was very faint and sick the 27th and 28th, but no Fit.—The same Medicines again.

August

August 5. Was made an In-patient the 2d. Had two Fits Yesterday, occasioned by a Fright, but not so strong as the last, nor so long.—The Pills and Drops again, and a perpetual Blister on the Arm.

August 11. No Fits, is brisk, Appetite pretty good. Against the approaching Change of the Moon, ordered her to lose a little Blood, then an Emetic, and a Purge afterwards.

Aug. 14. No Fit, is brisk and well.—Ordered again *Pil. fœt.* and *El. Vitr. Myns.*

Aug. 18. Yesterday had several Fits, owing to a Quarrel with another Patient in the Ward. To Day is pretty well, but feels a gnawing Pain at Stomach in the Morning fasting.—Ordered an Electuary, with *Conf. absinth. Rom.* and *Limatur.*

Stanni, also the *Elix. Vitr. Myns.*

Aug. 21. Had four Fits since the 18th, but not so long or strong as formerly. Gnawing at Stomach better. Went on as before.

Aug. 28. No Fits, Appetite good, Gnawing but little. Against the Change of the Moon, ordered Evacu-ations as above.—After this she went on again with the *Elect. cum Limat. Stanni* till the 10th of *Sept.* during which Time she had but one Fit from a Surprise, a very flight one, and the Gnawing at Stomach being quite removed.—Ordered the *Pil. fæt.* again, and *El. Vitr.* which she continued 'till the 24th of *Sept.* when finding that she had had no Fits, though she had met with a great Fright during that Time, Dizziness of the Head, and Pain at Stomach
gone,

gone, she was dismissed as an In-patient, but I advised her to continue the last Medicines a while longer to confirm her Cure, which she did 'till the 15th of Oct. when she came to acquaint me she had had no Fit since, and found herself perfectly well.

As this Girl had had a Return of her Fits formerly, I judged from the Symptoms she complained of when I sent for her in *July* 1745, that she was going to have Fits again. Accordingly she was bled, and had Medicines to take by Way of Prevention, notwithstanding which she had a Fit, some Days after.

The Gnawing at Stomach was removed by the *Limatura Stanni*, and *Cons. Absinth. Roman.* But as no

Worms were perceived to come from her, it is doubtful, whether the bitter Conserve, or the *Stanni Limat.* did the Business.

I have not seen her since, so conclude she continues well.

C A S E XXXV.

*Hysteric Fits after a Fever, with
Contraction of the left Hand.*

E *Liz. Fox*, aged twenty four, had a violent Fever about nine Years ago, at the going off of which she perceived a Tremor all over, and something rising from the *Abdomen* to her Throat, with Suffocation, and which left a Swelling there at first, but small, but now is as big as a Hen's Egg. Afterwards she

she had struggling Fits, which sometimes went off with violent Laughing, so that she was often quite hoarse with it, and very languid several Days after. At other Times a Fit of Crying finished them, after which she found herself always best, and observed that when a Fit was coming on, and she burst out a crying, it did prevent it.——Thus she has been troubled ever since, her Fits lasting off and on sometimes three Weeks running.——She commonly has a Fever in Spring, and then her Fits are always worse.——She has her *Menses* at regular Periods, but too abundant, sometimes they last fourteen Days, and then she is commonly best.——She is generally costive, her Urine pale, and in too great a Quantity.——About six Months ago she

sprained her left Wrist, since that the Hand has been lame, and all the Fingers so contracted, that the Nails are almost drawn into the Flesh, which is very painful.——She has had Advice, and taken various Medicines, but to no Effect.——Observes that Bleeding abates her Fits, as it weakens the Constitution, but when she has recovered her Strength they return with equal Violence. *bolduon*

June 10, 1745. Three Days ago was in Fits almost twenty eight Hours, struggling and beating herself, with violent Laughing. Was blooded and is better since.——Ordered *Mixt. Cathol.* Nights and Mornings, and *Elix. Vitr. Myns.* twice a Day.——The Surgeon put her Hand extended upon a Board to remedy the painful Contraction of the Fingers, rubbed
in

in *Opodeld.* Nights and Mornings.

June 14. Had two Fits the 12th, very strong. Thinks her Stomach better.——Ordered as before.

June 19. Had had several Fits. Two at the *Infirmary*, Laughing and Struggling, lasted about half an Hour. Tumor in her Throat better.——*Mixt. Cathol.* as before. Also *Lac Ammon. cum Tinct. fulig. cum Ass. & Laud. liq. parumper, ter die*, and *Linim. Opodeld.* for the Hand.

June 26. Fits as before, but last not so long. Hand a little better, but the Flesh of the Palm wastes, has had her *Menses* very moderately.—Went on as before.

July 3. Had Fits all Day long the 1st (full Moon the 2d) complains of a violent *Vertigo*.——Ordered *V. S.*

Blister

Blister to her Neck, and the two Mixtures as before.

July 11. Fits very bad these two Days, Dizziness of the Head troublesome, and gnawing Pain at Stomach. Hand better.——Ordered an *Elect.* with *Limat. Stanni, Valer. Cast. & Z. Z.* Nights and Mornings, of *Mixt. Cathol.* a Tea-spoon full at eleven and six in the Afternoon. Also *Opodeld.* for the Hand.

July 17. Had Fits Yesterday, but not so very bad, Appetite better, Head easier, not so confused.——Advised cold Bathing, the Medicines as before.

July 24. Fits the nineteenth and twenty first, not so long nor strong. Ordered the *Electuary* Nights and Mornings, and *Visc. querci* twice a Day; also *Opodeldoch.*

July 31. Had Fits the twenty sixth and twenty eighth, sick at Stomach, has a cold numb'd Pain in her left Side and Head, was Yesterday chillish all the Day, though went warm into the Bath.——Ordered the Bathing to be suspended.——These Medicines not answering our Expectation, and the Stomach being greatly disordered, I directed *Pil. Stom. c. Gumm.* three Times a Day, with *Tinct. Stom. Amar.* also a Julep with *Sal. Vol. C. C.* to be used when faint.

Aug. 7. Fits the 1st (full Moon the 3d) Pain of the Stomach and Side, also the Head much at one; missed her *Menses.*——*V. S. pedis*, a vermifuge bitter Powder Nights and Mornings, and an oily Mixture, with *Sal. Vol. C. C.*

Aug.

Aug. 14. Had Fits the 12th all Day, was quite senseless, has had none since, Pain of the Stomach and Side not so bad since last Medicines, Arm not so lame, but Hand the same. Ordered an Issue in the lame Arm, and the last Medicines again.

Aug. 19. Had Fits the 16th (that Day new Moon) Appetite bad, Stomach painful and swell'd.—Ordered *Pil. fæt.* every other Night, and as she was inclined to be costive, some *Tinct. jalap.* the Morning after, *Elix. Vitr. Myns.* twice a Day, and *Tinct. fulig. cum Ass.* occasionally.

Aug. 26. No Fits, Swelling at Stomach quite gone, but is very sick, vomits up every Thing, missed her *Menses* upwards of six Weeks.—Ordered an aromatick Stomach Mixture three times a Day, *Tinct. fulig.* as before.

Aug.

Aug. 30. No Fits, Starting very bad, brings up almost every Thing, even the Medicines, Pain of her Side and Pinching in her Bowels bad.—

V. S. pedis. Pil. Stomach. c. Gumm. three times a Day, with a Stomach Bitter.

Sept. 4. No Fits, Starting and Vomiting better, Hand the same. Advised holding it in a warm Bullock's Paunch. Has had her *Menses*.—The last Medicines again.

Sept. 11. No Fits, Sicknefs and Vomiting quite gone. Had made use of the Bullock's Paunch, but found her Hand and Arm very painful and rather worse. Has since dipp'd it in cold Water, found it glow and easier. Has violent Shootings in the Head at Times.—Went on as before.

Sept.

Sept. 16. No Fits 'till last Night, which the excessive Pain of the Head she has lately been subject to, brought on. Thinking it to be a Translation of the morbid Matter from the Arm to the Head, I bid her leave off cold Bathing her Hand.—Blisters behind the Ears, Cupping in the Neck, a Powder with *Æthiops Miner. Crude Antim.* & *G. Guaj.* Nights and Mornings, to absorb and evacuate the peccant Matter which seemed to be afloat, and a Mixture of *Spir. C. C. Lavend. C.* and a little *Laud. liq.* when faint, also *pulv. Sternutator.*

Sept. 23. The shooting and darting Pain of her Head so bad, that it puts her into Fits, is commonly worse at Nights. The same Powder again, with a Diet Drink of the Wood, a Vomit to Morrow Afternoon, and Paregoric at Night.

Sept.

Sept. 30. Was cupped, which had not been done on Account of her Blisters, Head better, no Fits.—The Powder and Diet Drink as before, a Paregoric Pill every Night, the last Paregoric having had a very good Effect.

Oct. 7. No Fits, Head better, has now again Stitches in her Stomach and right Side, and Startings.—The Powders and Diet Drink as before, *Spir. C. C.* twice or thrice a Day, an Ointment for the Hand, and Bleeding in the lame Arm.

Oct. 15. No Fits, Starting better, Head well, Pain of the Stomach and Side better, perceives that since she was blooded in the lame Arm she can extend her Fingers a little, which latterly had been kept extended upon a Paste-board, the Contraction not being

being quite so violent.—Had the Powders and Diet Drink again.

Oct. 21. No Fits, Head and Stomach well, Starting mends. Has an Eruption about her Body like the Shingles. Ordered *V.S.* in the same Arm again, *Pil. Calom.* a Cathartic, a Paregoric, and *Cerat. Turn.* for the Pustles.

Oct. 28. No Fits, all the other Complaints better, Hand continues mending, the Eruptions better.—The *Calomel* Pill, Purge and Paregoric, also the Ointment for the Hand.

Nov. 4. No Fits, Hand mends, but an Uneasiness at Stomach, and low-spirited (doubtless from the repeated Evacuations)—Ordered *Pil. Stom. c. Gumm.* Nights and Mornings, and a Mixture of *Lac Ammon. Tinct. fulig. cum Ass. Sal. C. C.* and *Laud. liq. parv. quant.* Nov.

Nov. 8. No Fits, Hand mends, last Complaints better. Ordered Bleeding in the lame Arm once more, and the last Medicines.

Nov. 12. Returned Thanks to the Board for her Cure. The Pills once more, and *Elix. Vitr.* to brace up the *primæ viæ*.

The Wrist being weakned by a Sprain, the Spasmodic Matter fell upon that Part, and occasioned that stubborn Lameness and Contraction.

She had her *Menses* regularly at first, and rather too abundant, but in the Process of Cure they stopped; whether this was owing to the Evacuations made, or the peccant Matter shifting to those Parts, as it did to the Stomach, Head, Side, Bowels, &c. I will not determine: The last

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seems

seems the most probable, from their appearing again before the Completion of the Cure.

The frequent and violent Risings in her Throat had occasioned a very uncommon Appearance, *viz.* a kind of hysteric *Bronchocele*.

She took *Valerian, Castor, Visc. querci, &c.* a good while without any Advantage.

Her Constitution being much reduced, the Cold Bath was rather hurtful than of Service, and the particular Immersion of the Arm, as it seemed to help that Limb, so probably by that Means most excruciating Pains were transmitted to the Head by a Translation of Matter. Her Fits were generally worse about the Changes of the Moon.

As the darting Pains of her Head seemed worse at Night, I took them to have assumed a Type of the Rheumatic Disorder; and therefore ordered the *pulv. Alter. c. Guaj.* and a Decoction of the Woods, which separated from the Blood an acrimonious *Serum* under the Appearance of the Shingles, accompanied with violent Inflammation and Itching, and which proved of great Service, and probably brought the Cure to a Period.

The good Effect produced by Bleeding in the lame Arm, is also worthy our Notice.

C A S E XXXVI.

*Palsy and Convulsions from eating
of Tea.*

A Girl of about twelve Years of Age was taken last Year, with Loss of Appetite, grew pale and languid, and soon after the left Side of her Face became paralytic, and her Speech began to falter, her Arms and Legs not at all affected.

She had no Colic Pains or Costiveness, which I first inquired after, thinking it might be owing to the *Effluvia* from Lead (which exert their pernicious Effects chiefly at first in that Manner) she being a Glasier's Daughter: But found that she had made free with her Mother's Canners,

nisters, and privately eat Tea, for about six or seven Weeks last past.

As she was pale and languid, I ordered no Bleeding, but a Blister to her Neck, *Pil. fæt.* every other Night, with a volatile Julep, a gentle Paregoric the Night after the Operation of the Pills, and of the *Elix. Vit. Myns. & Spir. Lav. C. ana p. æq.* the Days between, and to increase the Drops as her Stomach could bear them.

This Method revived her Spirits, removed the Palsy of the Face, and restored her Appetite in about ten Days Time. However as she still continued pale and weak, I advised her to be sent into the Country, to take the Pills twice a Week, and the Drops the intermediate Days; by which Means she recovered very fast.

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Some

Some Time after this, *viz.* the 26th of *June*, 1745. the paralytic Disorder seized the right Side of her Face, with a Lameness and Tremor in that Arm, in the Nature of the *Chorea Sancti Viti*, and a feverish Heat, which generally was worst in the Afternoon.

Upon this she was brought to Town. I found her still very pale and languid, with Loss of Appetite, a Sediment in the Urine tending to red, and a great Pain about the *Sutura Coronalis*.

As the Blister of the Neck still discharged, which I ordered to be kept open, I thought it not necessary to apply one upon the Head. She was to take the *Pil. fæt.* every other Night, and the *Mixtur. Salin.* to bring the Fever to an Intermission.

July

July 2. The feverish Heat had almost left her; very little Sediment in the Urine, which was palish. The Contraction of the right Side of the Face gone, as also the Tremor of that Arm, her Appetite better, and she was not so languid.——I ordered the Saline Mixture to be continued, to extinguish quite the febrile Heat, and to evacuate by Means of the Pills the Load injurious to the nervous System, to prevent a Relapse.

July 22. Her Face remained well, Appetite good, *Alvus* regular, Urine well coloured, Complexion mended from fallow to lively, not so drowzy, sleeps naturally well, and gathers Strength.

As this Case partakes of the Nature of the *Chorea Sancti Viti*, it belongs

R 4 properly

properly enough to this Collection, though my chief View of inserting it, is to shew the pernicious Effects of the intemperate Use of Tea.

Schroder, who is very sanguine in his Commendation of this Vegetable, praises its Vertues for all Manner of Rheums, Catharrhs, Indigestion, Weakness of the Reins, Joints and Gout. And sums up all with saying, that it is an Augmenter of human Strength, and preserves from all Infections of the Air, to which Purpose divers Ambassadors residing in *China*, used it in his Time in the Morning.

As a Diluter and Detergent, it may properly enough be used in some Cases he mentions: But we know from longer Experience, that as it rarifies and dissipates the finer Juices, which should serve to actuate the
Nerves,

Nerves, it brings on Tremors, *Vertigos*, Watchings, and all manner of hypochondriac, hyfteric, and paralytic Disorders, and therefore is by no Means to be looked upon as a Preserver of human Strength. And I am persuaded, that the frequent Use of this Plant is the chief Cause, next to private Dram drinking, which I am afraid is too much practised, of the various nervous Complaints that are so common among the fair Sex.

Before this Child took to eating of Tea, she was healthy, brisk and active; her paralytic Disorder can therefore be attributed to no other Cause. And as the smaller Branches of Nerves were already affected, it is reasonable to suppose, that by the continued Excess in Tea, the Origin, which on Account of its stronger Texture remained

mained hitherto unmolested, would in Process of Time have also suffered, the Consequence of which must have been a total Relaxation, and Destruction of the animal Frame. On the contrary it appears, that when this Abuse was laid aside, and proper Medicines applied, she was soon restored to her former State of Health.

C A S E XXXVII.

Palsy and Convulsions.

MARY Dobson, aged forty, of a robust Habit, had lost about fourteen Days before she came to the *Infirmery*, all on a sudden her Speech, and the Use of her left Side.

Finding that she had bore many Children, and that her *Menses* were dodging

dodging her, I ordered the 2d of Oct. 1745. *V. S.* a Calomel Pill two Nights following, a Cathartic the next Morning, and a Paregoric at Night.

Oct. 9. She seemed to be relieved, therefore ordered the same Medicines again.

Octob. 15. Began to recover her Speech, her Lameness also better. Prescribed as before.

Oct. 18. Lameness and Speech better, but has no Appetite. Imagining the Purges were the Occasion of it, I ordered her the *Mixt. Cathol. cum Tinct. Mart. Myns.* Nights and Mornings to evacuate gently, and to warm the Stomach and *primæ viæ*, and the *Elix. Vitr. Myns.* to brace them up.

Oct.

Oct. 25. Her Speech and Lameness mended, her Appetite no better. Continued as before.

Nov. 6. Was better in every Respect, but had felt a convulsive Tremor inwardly.——As she mentioned the Medicines seemed rather too strong for her Stomach, I ordered *Pil. fæt.* every other Night, and allay'd the Pungency of the *Elix. Vitr.* with some of our *Tinct. Stomach. Amar.*

With these Medicines she went on 'till the 4th of Dec. when she still continued on the mending Hand, but complained of an Uneasiness at Stomach: and apprehending it might proceed from the Acid in the Drops, I ordered *Tinct. Amar. Stomach. & Semin. Cardamom. ana p. æq.* instead of the *Elix. Vitr.*——As she had had several of those convulsive Tremors,

mors, prescribed also *V. S.* again, and
Episp. perp. intern. Brach. sinistr.

Dec. 23. Was better in every Respect. Had the Pills and Drops again.

Dec. 30. Continued mending, but complained of a Lowness of Spirits and Dizziness of the Head.——Ordered the Pills as before, and *Spir. C. C.* twice a Day, also *pulv. Sternut.*

From that Time I saw her no more 'till she came to return Thanks for her Cure, which was the 4th of *Febr.* 1745-6.

This Case, as well as the precedent, is originally paralytic. It is here likewise to be observed, that when the morbid Matter was disturbed, it fell upon the Intestines, or *plexus mesentericus*, and there produced convulsive Agitations. And from both

Cases we may draw this Inference, that on Account of the Affinity between a Palsy and Convulsions, the Transition is not very great from one to the other.

C A S E XXXVIII.

Palsy and Convulsions.

E——— *B*———, twenty five Years of Age, of a thin Habit, but healthy Complexion, perceived in the Beginning of *March*, 1744-5. between five and six in the Evening, on a sudden such a Coldness in her Hands, that she was going to the Fire to warm them, when presently, to her great Surprise, both her Arms dropt down, so that she could only move them from her Shoulders, but

I

down-

downwards had lost all Motion. She had eat a moderate Dinner, had used no hard Exercise that Day, and was at home when this Accident happened ; had felt no Dizziness of the Head, Sickness at Stomach, nor any other Disorder whatever.

She was blooded, and took some Medicines from an Apothecary, but without any Amendment. When I saw her first, which was on the 25th of *March*, her Pulse was quick, but not full, her Hands felt warm, though they seemed quite cold to her, and when pinch'd was not sensible of it. She had a constant Thirst, but pretty good Appetite, slept well, her *Alvus* regular, Urine free, generally thick, and *Menses* in good Order, which continued so during the whole Time of her Cure.

I or-

I ordered her to lose eight Ounces of Blood, an Emetick, to dislodge the Load occasioning the Obstruction of the Nerves, *Pil. Ruff.* to carry off by the *Anus* the Matter thus resolved, and a volatile Julep, to attenuate the Juices, and stimulate the now insensible Nerves, also a Blister to her Back for the same End.

March 29. She had comply'd with my Prescription, but found no Amendment in her Arms. I ordered her Arms to be rubb'd twice a Day, with an Infusion of hot Water and Mustard Seed, and to go on with the *Pil. Ruff.* and volatile Julep.

Apr. 5. Began to have some Feeling in the Fingers of her left Hand, about two Days ago, and now had the same Sensation in those of her right Hand. Finding the first prescribed

scribed Medicines had a good Effect, they were ordered to be continued.

Apr. 15. She had continued mending every Day, and by Degrees recovered the Feeling and Motion of both her Arms and Hands, which were now perfectly well. But on the 13th in the Evening had been taken suddenly with a strong Convulsion Fit, which lasted near one Hour, and when she recovered from it, her Speech was gone, so that she could not utter one single Word.

As she had her *Menses* at this Time, did not care to bleed her, but ordered a Blister in the Nape of her Neck, the *Tinct. Cathol. cum Tinct. fulig.* Nights and Mornings, and the volatile Julep as before, and to gargle her Mouth with an Infusion of Mustard Seed.

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Apr.

Apr. 19. She could make some Use of her Tongue, and utter some Words, though but imperfectly.— The last Medicines were continued.

Apr. 29. She went on mending. She had the *Tinct. Cathol. cum Tinct. fulig.* again. And as she complained of a Colic Pain in her Bowels, I added a little *Laud. liq.* to the volatile Julep.

May 6. Had perfectly recovered her Speech, and to confirm her Cure, ordered her to take *Pil. fæt.* every other Night, and the *Elix. Vitr. Myns.* twice a Day.

Although this Case is not of the Convulsive Order from the Beginning, yet as Convulsions intervene during the Process of Cure, it deserves being taken Notice of here, on Account of that Peculiarity. The

The Attack was truly paralytic, Motion and Sensation was lost, and when the peccant Matter came to be dislodged from its first Hold, Nature was going to lend an assistant Hand, and made an Effort by the Convulsive Motions to throw it off, and not being capable of effecting it, it fell upon the Organs of Speech.

Her Urine is thick, because the *Miasmata* that should have been thrown off by insensible Perspiration, in those Parts where the nervous Fibres had lost their Tone, are retained in the Blood; and to this may also be ascribed the feverish Heat, and constant Thirst.

The *Viscus querci*, and *Valeriana Sylv.* two famous Specifics, do not much appear in these Cases, because

I had tried them formerly so often, 'till I found that no Dependance was to be made upon them only, but that the chief of the Cure consisted in Evacuations and Medicines, corroborating the *primæ viæ*.

If you consider the State the Brain was found in at the Dissections above quoted, you will easily allow this Position to be true, and agree that the *Visc. querci*, *Valerian. Sylo. Castor. pæon. Ass. fæt. G. Ammon. Cinnab. Antimon. Aur. musiv. Bezoar. Cran. hum. Ungul. Alcis. Sterc. pavon. &c.* of themselves can be of little or no Service. But the morbidic Matter being evacuated, they may come in to corroborate the Nerves; or if they are used before, nothing else is either aimed at or to be expected from them, but to support
during

during the Course of other Remedies
the languid Spirits.

The chief Instance I have seen of
the good Effects of the *Visc. querci*,
was in the Case of one *John Whar-*
ton, a Lad of about fifteen, who
had the *St. Vitus Dance* in his
right Arm and Leg.—I began with
Bleeding, gave him the *Pil. aur.*
two Nights following, a Purge the
Morning after, and a Paregoric at
Night; which was repeated two or
three Times, and seemed to make
him better. After that, for Fear of
weakning him too much, I ordered
the *Pil. fæt.* every other Night, and
Elix. Vitr. Myns. twice a Day, which
at first agreed very well, and his
Arm and Leg were steadier.—But
whilst I thought him on the mending
Hand, we were surpris'd not only

with a Return of the Gesticulation of the right Arm and Leg as strong as ever, but also the left Arm was affected with the same kind of Motion. Upon which, imagining his Nerves could not bear Evacuations any longer, I ordered him to take of *pulv. Visc. querc.* as much as his Stomach would bear, Nights and Mornings, and a stomachic Bitter at eleven and five. This Course immediately took Place, and soon compleated his Cure.

About the same Time, *Sarah Whitton*, aged nineteen, who had the *St. Vitus Dance* in the right Arm and Leg, was also under my Care. She had her *Menses* duly, and was of a healthy Complexion. After Evacuations made, as above mentioned, I ordered her also the *pulv. Visc. querci* :

querci: But although she took it a considerable Time, found no Amendment at all. After that she took *Tinct. Cathol.* Nights and Mornings, in small Quantities, gently to evacuate the morbid Matter, upon which she grew better immediately.

In Case 33. the *Tinct. Visc. querc.* at first seemed to have a good Effect, but afterwards the Startings returned again, notwithstanding its Use was continued; and as the Blood was very thick, and wanted a sufficient Quantity of *Serum*, I therefore could trust to the *Visc. querc.* no longer, but ordered *Calomel* to thin the Blood, which was attended with good Success.

What has been said of the *Visc. querc.* also holds good in general, with Respect to the *Valerian* and

other nervous Medicines, with this Addition, that this Drug is more offensive to the Stomach than the other, especially when taken in such Quantities as *Fabius Columna* mentions, viz. half a Spoonful or more at a Time.

When the Stomach has lost its Tone, and almost loaths all kind of Food, as is frequently the Case of Persons labouring under Fits, how can it be expected it should be in a Condition to receive and digest such a Quantity of a dry and nauseous Root? Or if it is got down, you will soon destroy the little Appetite that is left, and necessary for the support of the Patient.

When the Stomach is in this languid State, the *Tinct. Cathol.* and *Elix. Vitr. Myns.* seem to be the best adapted

adapted Remedies. For the first gently warms the Stomach, invigorates its relaxed Nerves, and as an alterative Aperient gently evacuates the peccant Matter; the latter braces up the first Passages at the same Time, and perhaps, as it is of great Efficacy in Rheumatic and Scorbutic Cases, may likewise by its acid and chalybeate Quality, serve to correct the Fluid occasioning Spasms, which in some of these Cases seems to border very near upon that Class.

When the Stomach doth not want so much Warming, or when the Patient has taken the *Tinct. Hier.* some Time (lest it should become habituated to it, or for Fear the Liver should be injured by its Heat) the *Pil. fætid.* may be given. And if the Patient should nauseate, or not be able
to

to digest them in the solid Form, they may be dissolved, and rendered more tolerable to the Stomach in a Draught.

As a Vehicle for the Pills or Powders, I usually make the Poor take some *Spir. C. C.* or *Tinct. fulig. cum Ass.* in a Glass of Water; for the Rich it is easy to contrive proper Ju-
leps, as Vehicles, with hysteric Ingredients, to add to their Efficacy.

I could easily have furnished more Cases, as will appear from the great Number that occur at the *London Infirmary* every Year. But as these contain Examples of almost every Kind of Fits, I may say with Dr. *Cheyne de Febr.* *Much more might be added on this Head, but these are sufficient, else twice so much will not suffice.*

CASES

C A S E S of the Bite of mad Creatures, treated after the Method of Dr. Default, with some additional Means of my own, Observations upon the same, and Remedies proposed for the Cure of the Hydrophobia.

SOME Years since a Translation from the *French* was published, intituled—*A TREATISE on the Venereal Distemper, containing a Method of curing it without Salivation, Danger, or great Expence. With two Dissertations, the first, on Madness from the Bite of mad Creatures, the second on Consumptions. With a Method of curing them radically.* By *PIERRE DESAULT, M. D. and Member of the College of Physicians of Bourdeaux.* As

As to his Method of treating the Venereal Distemper without Salivation with rubbing in the mercurial Ointment, and purging it off when the Mouth begins to be hot, I have made several Trials of it, but cannot say that it is as certain or effectual a Process as a Salivation: Notwithstanding that a late Surgeon of this Town, who bore the Character of Learning and Skill in his Profession, was so sanguine an Advocate for this Practice, that he published several Pamphlets, to persuade the Public, that it is infallible in all the Symptoms of the most confirmed *Lues*. But whether this Assertion was as honest, as it was well calculated to bring Grists to his Mill, I will leave to those to determine, who have gone through his Course.

How-

However it must be owned, that in flighter Degrees of Infection, the *Cordee*, *Phimosis*, *Paraphimosis*, Venereal Ulcers, &c. it may be applied to great Advantage, as also in White Swellings, some of which I have seen that Way treated with Success; of which perhaps at another Opportunity.—This only by the by, my present Design being to give an Account of what Success I have had with his Method of treating the Bite of mad Creatures, and what other Means were made use of to assist in the Pursuit of his Scheme.

C A S E I.

THE first Opportunity I had of trying this Method, was upon a Gentleman of about thirty, who was
bit

bit by a Cat, that had been fullen some Days, and refused both Meat and Drink, and died the next Day after the Bite.

She had bit also a Dog, who shewing the usual Symptoms of Madness, was destroyed to prevent Mischief.

Two Days after the Bite, the wounded Part, which was the Joint of his right Forefinger, appeared livid, swell'd and hard, with a Stiffness in the Joint, and a continual dull and heavy Pain.

I ordered the Part to be scarified, and the Blood not coming freely, to be squeezed out. Then to rub into and about the Place, after the Bleeding was stopt, some of the *Unguent. Neapolitan.* and so twice a Day, and to cover it with a Mercurial Plaister. The same Afternoon he went into
the

the Cold Bath, and that Night and the following he took a Bolus with *Calom.* and a Purge the Morning after the second Bolus. In the Afternoon he went into the Cold Bath again, and at Night took a Bolus of *Ther. Androm.* & *pulv. Antilyss.*

The next Morning he took the *pulv. Antilyss.* and two Nights following his mercurial Boluses again, and the Purge as before; which upon the whole was repeated three or four Times, rubbing in the mercurial Ointment constantly twice a Day, and keeping the mercurial Plaister over the Wound.

He took but four or five Doses of the *pulv. Antilyss.* and went into the Cold Bath but a few Times, although I advised him to bathe oftner, and to take more of the Powder; of which
he

he grew neglectful, finding that the Wound healed in a very kindly Manner. However he used the mercurial Ointment twice a Day, wearing constantly a mercurial Plaister over the Part, for about three Weeks, and has continued well since, save common Illness, which is near eight Years ago.

C A S E II.

William Davis, five Years of Age, was brought to the *London Infirmary* by his Mother on the 18th of *June*, 1742. She said a mad Dog had bit him in the hind Part of his Neck the Day before. The Dog's Teeth had penetrated through the Skin, and fetch'd Blood. The fore Place was of a livid Colour, hard and

and swelled, attended with a numb'd Pain, also a dull and heavy Head-ach, Thirst, and little Fever.

I ordered crural Incisions to be made upon the part through the common Integuments, and let it bleed 'till it stopt of itself. Then a mercurial Plaister was applied upon the Sore, and the Mother was directed to rub in upon the Place of the *Ung. Neapolit.* at Night and the Morning following, covering the Place again with the *Empl. Mercur.* That same Day in the Afternoon, the Mother was directed to dip the Child over Head and Ears into a Tub of cold Water, and to give him at Night going to rest a Calomel Pill, and the Morning following a Purge; and towards the Evening to dip him again into the cold Water, and at Night to give

T

him

him a Bolus, with *Conf. Mithrid.* and *Sal. vol. C. C.*—All which the Mother promised to see done punctually, I having represented to her earnestly the dangerous Consequence that might follow, if my Directions were not faithfully complied with.

On the 21st the Child was brought again, I ordered *Ung. Neapolit.* to be rubb'd in again as before, to dip him that Afternoon in cold Water, to give him the Calomel Pill at Night, and the Purging Powder the Morning following, as before.

The 23^d he had again of the *Ung. Mercur.* to be used Nights and Mornings. He was dipt in cold Water, and took the Calomel Pill over Night, the Purging Powder the Morning following, and the above Bolus at Night.

The 26th I saw the Child again. The Wound was healed, the Flesh soft like the rest, and of a kindly Aspect. The Mother said she had dipt him in cold Water the Day before: And as his Mouth was not hot, or any Symptom of a Spitting appeared, I ordered him again the mercurial Pill at Night, the Purge next Morning, and Bolus as before.

About this time he was taken ill of the Measles, for which he was blooded, and took gentle alexipharmic Medicines and Pectorals, and when recovered was purged twice more with the Calomel Pill and Powder as before, at proper Intervals.

Now the Child seeming brisk and lively, with a fresh Colour in his Face, I let him alone for about eight Days, when I purged him once more, and

bid the Mother bring him to me again a Month afterwards. By Way of Precaution he had Physic once more at that Time, and I desired the Mother to apply to me immediately if she found the Child any Ways disordered, but he has continued well, and was alive two Years after the Accident, when he was my Patient again for a slight Disorder.

C A S E III.

JOH^N Postern, aged about forty five, was bit by a Dog in the hind Part of his right Leg, just above the Shoe upon the *Tendo Achillis*, on the 21st of Aug. 1743.—The Dog, he said, came running along, bit and snapt at other Dogs, and at every Person

Person in his Way: His Tongue hung out of his Mouth, he foamed, his Head and Tail hanging down, and looked as if very much fatigued. *Postern* not being aware soon enough to get out of the Way, the Dog bit him without any Provocation. What became of him, he could not tell, for he was so terrified that he went away immediately; and a Hue and Cry being set up, he supposed the Dog was soon killed.

He came to the *London Infirmary* the next Day, when I perceived the Print of several of the Dog's Teeth very plain, the Skin raised, and it had bled a little. The wounded Part was swelled, hard, and of a livid Colour, attended with a numb'd pricking Pain, with an Aspect of Malignity, peculiar to those Sorts of

Wounds: and it seemed to him as if something cold was frequently trickling about the Place, which made him sometimes look whether any Blood was coming from the Wound; this Symptom is taken Notice of by other Authors.—— I immediately ordered the wounded Part to be scarified cross-ways through the common Integuments, the stagnated Blood to be squeezed out, and to let it bleed as long as it would. Afterwards to rub in some of the *Ung. Mercur.* as also Nights and Mornings with the *Emplastr. Mercurial.* over it. That Afternoon he bathed in the River, and at Night took a Pill with *Calomel.* and the next Morning a Purge, and at Night some *Theriac. Androm.*

August

August 24. I ordered him to go again into the Water, and to continue rubbing in of the *Ung. Mercurial.* Nights and Mornings. He took the Calomel Pill that Night, and one the Night following, and the Morning of the 26th the Purging Powder, and the Paregoric Bolus going to Rest; and as he complained of a Dizziness in his Head and Trembling, to take of the *Tinctur. fulig. cum Ass.* twice or oftner a Day in a Glas of fair Water.

Sept. 1. He came to me, telling me that he had used the mercurial Ointment Nights and Mornings, bathed in cold Water almost every Day, and taken the Drops ever since; but the Purges having weak'ned him pretty much, was the Occasion of his not coming before. The Wound was

now almost healed and looked very kindly; and as his Throat was sore, and Glands tumified, and his Strength would not admit of stronger Cathartics, I ordered him the *Pil. Ruff.* every other Night, the *Tinct. fulig. cum Ass.* as before, and *Ung. Mercur.* to rub in a little Nights and Mornings about the Part, with the *Empl. Mercurial.* over it.

The 8th of *Sept.* he came to the *Infirmary*; I reproved him for staying away so long, but he to excuse himself said, that finding he was pretty well, the Wound quite healed, and all his Complaints abated, nay almost gone, he thought there was no farther Occasion for his coming, but to thank me. The Swelling of the Glands being gone, and his Throat easy, I ordered him to continue rubbing

bing in some more mercurial Ointment, and by Way of Precaution to take once more of the Calomel Pills and Purge, also to continue the *Tinctura fulig. cum Ass.* as before, and to call upon me a few Days after.—The Patient was in good Health before this Accident, but since complained of a heavy Pain of his Head and Dizziness, which at Times obstructed his Hearing; had often Shiverings, succeeded by hot Fits and Flushings in his Face, was thirsty, his Tongue white and furr'd, and his Pulse frequent, but not full. His Appetite was sometimes sharp, and when he had eat seemed to be faint and sick, and sometimes could not eat at all. His Sleep was uneasy and disturbed, and he was generally constive, and observed that when he had

Stools

Stools procured him, his Symptoms were relieved.

Sept. 14. He came again, complaining with Tears in his Eyes, that being quite well of the former Accident, he had had the Misfortune of being bit again by a mad Dog, and worse than before.—A little Cur Dog of a Neighbour's of his, having been from Home about two Days, his Master seeing him running about and snapping at People, and foaming at his Mouth, took him by the Neck, and carried him home; where perceiving that he look'd fierce and wild about his Eyes, and endeavoured to snap at and bite him, he let him go. Upon which he bit *Postern*, who was in the House, in three Places, in his left Leg, near the Shin Bone. He had but a thin Pair of Stockings on, wherefore

wherefore the Dog's Teeth had penetrated rather more than the time before.——The Dog bit also the same Time one *Mary Walker* in the Hand, making a considerable Wound, which bled plentifully. She also was a Patient at the *Infirmary*, and treated after the same Method, excepting that Scarification was not necessary, and has continued well since.——The Master killed the Dog immediately, and according to the Notion of the Vulgar, persuaded them to eat the Liver fry'd, which made them very sick and vomit.

I found these Wounds sorer than the former, and his Complaints succeeded by all the Symptoms again in the same Manner as at first. Crural Incisions were made again in all the three Places, and afterwards some of the

the *Unguent. Mercur.* rubb'd in with the *Empl. Mercur.* over the Wounds. I ordered him again to immerge in cold Water at convenient Times, and to take one Calomel Pill that Night, another the Night following, and the Morning after a Cathartic, and at Night a Paregoric Bolus as above.

The 17th I ordered the last Prescription to be repeated, and

The 20th he had the same again.

The 26th he went on as before, and had some *Tinct. fulig. cum Aff.* to take between whiles.

Oct. 3. The Wounds being healed and looking very well, but the Patient complaining of a Cholicky Disorder in his Stomach and Bowels, and Purging, Faintness and Want of Appetite, I ordered him to go on with the *Ung. Mercur.* about the Parts that

that had been wounded.—To take of *Elix. Vitr.* twice a Day, and *Theriac. Ven. cum pulv. Rhei* for three Doses, every other Night.

After this I saw my Patient no more, so that I apprehended he had died of the *Hydrophobia*, 'till the 23d of *April*, 1744. when he came to me to excuse himself, and said he had been in the North to see his Friends, that he was in as good Health as ever in his Life, excepting that every full Moon he was troubled with a Dizziness and Uneasiness all over, which afterwards went off again; that he was apprehensive this might be of ill Consequence, and he fancied, if the Infection was not quite extirpated from his Blood, he might still one Time or other fall a Sacrifice to its fatal Consequences.

I or-

I ordered him to take *Pil. Ruff.* every other Night, and some *Elix. Vitrioli* twice a Day.

In *May* following he came again, and said his Head was quite easy since the Purges, which he had observed all along; upon which I ordered him the same once more, and bid him come to me Fall and Spring for Relief'till he should find no more Remains of his Disorder.

Oct. 1, 1744. He came with another Patient, and was very well.

Besides these, I have seen several others at the *Infirmary*, that had been bit by mad Dogs, who were treated the same Way. But some of them coming but once or twice more for their Medicines, and others not returning at all, I do not think it consistent with the Impartiality I profess,

to

to relate their Cases, to draw any Inference from them: Although one should naturally suppose, they would have returned or sent to the Place, where they were sure of having Advice and Medicines for asking, if they had found themselves otherwise than well.

Our Surgeons have also treated some with laying Caustics upon the Place, the Patients being purged briskly with mercurial Medicines, with the desired Success. One in particular I cannot forbear mentioning, *viz. Francis Osborn*, an In-patient, who was bit by a Dog in Company with four other Men, two of whom, as he was informed, died of the *Hydrophobia*.

As I saw none of the Creatures that bit the Patients, I cannot be sure

fure that they were mad any otherwise
 than from Report and Circumstances.
 The Person bit in Case I. being a
 Limb of the Profession of Phyfic,
 upon Inquiry thought, he had Proofs
 enough to believe the Cat was mad.
 —As to the Child, Case II. the Mo-
 ther told me, that the Dog run wildly
 about the Street, foamed at Mouth,
 and bit him without any Provoca-
 tion, he being at the Door at Play
 with other Children. The Dog bit
 also at the same Time two Men, who
 went to *Gravesend*, to dip into salt
 Water. What became of them she
 could not tell, they being Strangers
 to her.—And the Description *Pos-
 tern* gave of the Dog that bit him
 and the Woman, Case III. represents
 so exactly the Picture of a mad Dog,
 that I think few will doubt, but
 they

they received some Taint from the mad Dog, and that they probably would have died of the *Hydrophobia*, if proper Means had not been applied.

The Bite of a mad Dog is followed by such shocking Symptoms, that the most violent Means have not been thought too harsh to prevent them. — *Galen* advises to enlarge the Wound by circular Incision, to burn it with a hot Iron, and to keep the Ulcer open forty Days at least. But if this Method seem too cruel, some advise to draw out the Venom by Cupping Glasses, applied upon the Part, having first made deep Scarifications, and using the *Unguent. Ægyptiac.* hot for a Dressing.

If external Remedies are omitted, or not applied seasonably, the Cure

U

is

is to be endeavoured at by internal Means. *Alexipharmics* are to be given, and among the rest the Ashes of Cray-fish are vastly recommended by the Antients; and *Galen* says, that no one died who took this Remedy. The Dose is one or two Spoonful every Day for forty Days, either alone, or with *Rad. Gentianæ* & *Thus*, in Wine.

Immersion into Sea Water has been esteemed a long Time a Cure for the Bite of mad Creatures; but Experience shews that it is not to be depended upon, many having died of the *Hydrophobia*, after having gone through this Operation.—Some of the Moderns imagining that it was only the Shock from the sudden Immersion, that expelled the Poison, are of Opinion, that Bathing in any cold

cold Water will do as well; yet I am inclined to think, that whilst the Wound is recent, Salt Water may do better than fresh, because the Salt may help to correct the *Virus*, and mundify the Sore.

Ettmuller recommends alexipharmic Medicines in a double Dose, and for a long Time; to apply upon the Place a Leak, or Rue bruised, with Salt in Form of a Cataplasm; Immersion into cold Water, purging with *Hellebore* and *Mercur. dulc.* Diureticks and Cantharides as a Specifick.—After scarifying the Wound, says he, apply an Onion roasted, or the following, *R. Cæp. acrem. N° j. Cap. allior. N° v. Ther. Venet. 3vj. ferment. 3℔. M. f. Cataplasma.*—Some add *Herb. Ruth. Sem. Sinap. ol. Scorpion. &c.* But as the most

expeditious Way, to burn the Place with a hot Iron, and if the Physician be called late, Application of Cupping Glasses, and an Issue to be opened near the Part affected.

The celebrated and learned Dr. Mead has introduced into Practice the *pulv. Antilyssus*, composed of *Lichen Ciner. terrestr. p. ij.* & *Piper. nigr. p. j.*, which has been administered many Years with great Applause.— Others recommend as a certain Cure *Cinnab. Antimon. & ambr. gris.*— In *Hist. Academ. Scient. Gallic.* Bleeding repeated even to Fainting is recommended for the *Hydrophobia*.— The *Medical Essays of Edinb.* Vol. I. mention a remarkable Case of a young Gentleman cured by repeated Bleedings, of a *Hydrophobia benigna*. But Experience doth not warrant that this
Practice

Practice will remove the true *Hydrophobia*, for which hitherto no Remedy has been found out.—They that would read more upon this Subject, are referred to Dr. *Leister's* Works, who has treated copiously and learnedly upon this Subject.

Dr. *Desault*, in his Treatise upon the Bite of a mad Dog, is of Opinion that the Contagion is communicated by a vermicular Poison, and as it affects chiefly the Glands of the Fauces, Reason dictated to him, that Mercury, which is a sure Destroyer of *Vermiculi*, and which takes its chiefest Tendency towards those Glands, might prove a proper Antidote. Or if it should be communicated in any other Wise, like other contagious Distempers, *viz.* the Itch, Scald-head, Tetters, the Venereal Disease, cutaneous
Worms,

Worms, &c. for which Mercury is a sovereign Antidote; he thinks, “ we may conclude from a Parity of Reasoning, that it may be used for the *Rabies*, and that it cannot be called Singularity or Rashness to advise the Use of Mercury to prevent or cure it.” —Accordingly he mentions several Cases of Persons bit by mad Creatures, which he treated with mercurial Uñction with Success, and one where the Symptoms of the *Hydrophobia* began to shew themselves already.

In Pursuance to this Way of Reasoning, I thought that scarifying the Part, to let out the stagnated and infected Blood, and rubbing afterwards some of the mercurial Ointment into the Place, might be more effectual; giving at the same time a mercurial
Medicine

Medicine internally, and purging it off, to colliquate and evacuate the infected Juices, not neglecting the *Psychrolusia* and *Alexipharmics* at proper times.

This Method I am inclinable to believe will do to extinguish the Infection before any Symptoms of the *Hydrophobia* appear; but what will be of Service in those Circumstances, I cannot yet determine. *Desault* proposes putting the Patient into a Salivation, which as it cannot be brought on soon enough by Unction, I would recommend in the first Place copious Bleeding, and then a strong mercurial Emetic, if it could be got down, if not, Fumigations with *Cinnab. Antimon.* rubbing in some of the *Ung. Merc.* at the same Time upon and about the Part that had been wounded,
and

and into the *axillary* and *inguinal* Glands.

I cannot forbear mentioning here, to corroborate in some Measure the foregoing, that an eminent and ingenious Practitioner of this Town told me, he had some Years ago cured a Person of a periodical Madness, attended with some Symptoms of the *Hydrophobia*, by a Salivation.

I submit the Facts, which I have related, and may be depended upon to be literally true, to the Consideration of the Public, and hope that others will try the Method I have pursued and proposed, and improve upon it, for the Good of Mankind, as I intend to do, when Occasion offers.

———*Si quid novisti rectius istis,
Candidus imperti: Si non, his utere mecum.*

H O R.

Com-

Compositions of Medicines mentioned
in these Cases from the *Pharmaco-*
poea, contrived for the Use of
the *London Infirmary*.

E *Leet. Helmint. & Limat. Stann.*
Cons. absinth. ana p. æq. Syr.
alb. q. s. M.

Elect. Aper. & Elect. Lenit. ℥j.
Rad. jalap. pulver. ʒj β. Crem. Tart.
ʒj. Syr. ros. sol. q. s. M.

Mixt. Cathol. & Tinct. Sacr. ℥iij.
Syr. de Mecon. ℥j. Sal. Vol. C. C.
ʒj. M.

Pil. Aurat. & Calom. p. ij. Sulph.
aur. antim. p. j. Mucilag. G. traga-
canth. q. s. M. f. pil. gran. vj.

Pil. Bellost. & Hydrarg. depur. ℥j.
in Terebinth. subact. G. Guaj. ℥β. re-
sin. jalap. Scammon. ana ʒjv. Syr. è
spin. Cerv. q. s. M.

Pil. Epilept. & Pulv. Valerian.
Sylv. ℥j. Ass. fact. ʒx. ʒvi. Sal. jov.

Xʒij.

℥ij. ʒvj. Extr. Gent. ℥ij. Bals. Peruv.
q. s. M. f. Mass.

Pil. Corrobor. R G. Oliban. ʒj. Ru-
big. ferr. pulv. Cinnam. ana ℥ij. Conf.
ros. r. Conf. franc. s. m. ana p. æq. &
suff. ut f. Mass.

Pulv. Alter. cum Guaj. R Æth.
miner. ℥j. Antim. Crud. subtiliss.
pulver. ℥ss. G. Guaj. ʒjv. M.

Pulv. Rhei Sulph. R Pulv. Rhei p.
ij. fl. Sulph. p. j. M.

Pulv. Vermifug. R Sem. Santon.
ʒvj. Corallin. Limat. Stann. Subtiliss.
ana ʒjv. M.

Tinct. Amar. R Cort. Aurant. ʒjv.
Rad. Gentian. ℥ij. Sem. Card. min. ʒj.
Coccinel. ʒj. Sp. Vin. Brit. ℥ij. f. Tinct.
add. Unciæ cuique Laud. liq. ʒss. M.

Tinct. Diur. N. R Sal. Tart. Calc.
Viv. ana ℥j. Spir. Vin. Britt. ℥jv. San-
tal. Rub. q. s. ad Color. Digere.

F I N I S.